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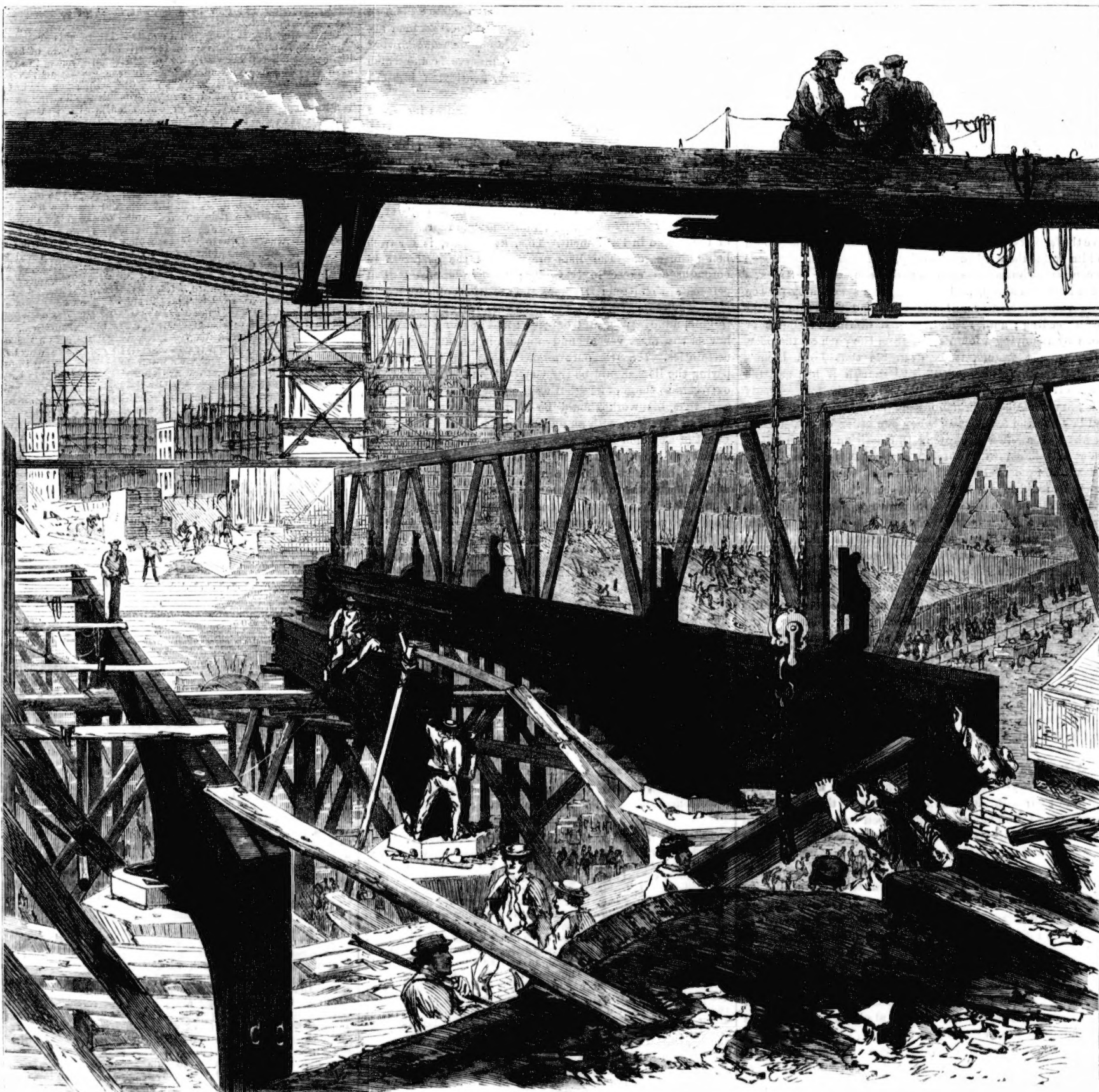
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SOME PARLIAMENTARY TOPICS.

THE Marquis of Salisbury, though, as all the world knows, a very clever man, is sometimes betrayed, by his love of things as they are, into the utterance of paradoxes. An illustration of this tendency of the noble Lord's mind was given in the course of a debate on education, in the House of Lords, the other evening. "Education," said Lord Salisbury, in effect, "will never repress crime, though it may, and probably will, diminish pauperism." Now, it seems to us that this deliverance involves a very decided paradox; for if pauperism be diminished, it would not be difficult to show

that crime must be diminished also, seeing that the one is to a great extent the result of the other. The great bulk of the crimes against property have their original and motive impulse in poverty; and the great majority of crimes against the person are committed in pursuit of crimes against property. Most thieves steal because they are poor, and have, in fact, no other means of gaining a living, never having been taught—that is, educated into—any degree of industrial skill that would enable them to earn their subsistence honestly; and most violent criminals resort to maiming or murder in order to facilitate or conceal breaches

of the Commandments which forbid men to steal or to covet their neighbours' possessions. Now, as poverty is thus seen to be the source of crimes against property in the first instance, and as crimes against property lead to crimes against the person, it follows that, if we diminish the cause of the evil—that is, poverty—we shall also diminish the effect—that is, crime. Of course, there are exceptional cases: some men are so viciously constituted that they are almost sure to fall into criminal courses under whatever influences they may have been trained, and who will only be more skilful criminals—as forgers, for instance—from



THE HOLBOEN VALLEY IMPROVEMENT WORKS: HOISTING THE BRIDGE GIRDERS TO THEIR PLACES.

being better-educated men; but these exceptions are comparatively rare, and do not disprove the law of cause and effect to which we have referred. There are, too, crimes of passion which do not spring from poverty, and which, in that connection, education would not check; but even this class of offenders may be beneficially affected by education, because it must tend to soften men's natures, teach them to control their passions, and enable them to understand and appreciate the evil consequences to themselves of yielding to rash impulses: that is, their superior enlightenment will enable them to know—what the utterly illiterate may not—that they cannot commit crimes with impunity; that if they sin against individual members of society, the collective body, through its officers, will set itself to detect and punish their crimes; and that, as a rule, its efforts will be successful. All this must have a deterrent influence, even upon passionate criminals. Therefore, my Lord Salisbury, do not let us distrust and discourage education because it may not be capable of doing all that we desire in the way of repressing crime; do not let us keep men poor and passionate because ignorant,—and criminal because all three. Had the Marquis of Salisbury said that education would not extinguish crime we should have been ready to agree with him, because we fear that neither crime nor pauperism will ever be extinguished till the human race is extinguished too, or until Dr. Darwin's system of "natural selection"—and that, too, always of the good order of specimens—shall have been carried on so far and so long as to reach absolute perfection in human nature—a point which, if attainable at all, is as yet a long way off. But, because we cannot utterly annihilate either pauperism or crime, there is no good reason why we should not strive to diminish both by removing the cause of each—that is, ignorance and consequent shiftlessness.

Not altogether alien to this subject is that of the game laws, which have this week been, in different aspects, under consideration in both Houses of Parliament. In the Upper Chamber, the Earl of Albemarle has asked for a modification of the law so far as to remove the scandal of game preservers being in almost all cases the sole judges of offences against the game laws; and in the Commons Lord Elcho has proposed to diminish the temptations to poaching by practically—in certain cases, at least—removing hares from the category of game. The member for Haddingtonshire seeks to enact that farmers, under certain conditions, shall be at liberty to kill hares on their own farms, by themselves or others, without taking out a game license. Now, as the result of this would necessarily be to diminish the number of hares, it would be beneficial in two ways: first, it would save the farmer's crops, and so be an economic advantage both to him and to the whole community, for it has been calculated by competent authorities that a hare consumes or destroys as much food as a sheep, and certainly the sheep is by far the most valuable creature of the two, and therefore better worth feeding; and, second, it will diminish a source of crime by removing a temptation from the path of the poor. Every way, therefore, it is desirable that Lord Elcho's proposal should be adopted, limited though it be; and the same is true as regards that of Lord Albemarle, for assuredly it is not calculated to promote good manners, sound morals, and law-abiding tendencies, when one order of society sees members of another occupying the position of both prosecutor and judge in the same cause. It is a most significant and hopeful sign of the times when noble Lords propose modifications of the laws—and, above all, of the game laws—in the direction indicated by Lords Albemarle and Elcho, and we heartily congratulate the country and them on the steps they have taken in this matter.

Henceforth, let no man despair of success in accomplishing reforms, if he have but sound principle and common sense on his side. Only a few years ago the supporters of Mr. H. Berkeley's annual motion in favour of vote by ballot made but a poor figure as they marched behind him into the division lobby; nay—so true is it that the darkest hour is just before dawn—on the very last occasion on which Mr. Berkeley brought the question before Parliament the minority in its favour was smaller than ever. And now it may be said that success is certain, and the principle of secret voting in elections practically adopted. The ballot is about to become a Cabinet question, which it has never been before; men—like Mr. Gladstone—who have hitherto steadily opposed it, have declared their conversion; others—like the Home Secretary—who have heretofore been neutral, have given in their adhesion; and a majority of the members of the House of Commons are understood to be favourable to its adoption. This is indeed a pleasing and encouraging prospect; and, while we regret the cause, we must rejoice over the fact that despair of securing purity and freedom of election by any other means has led to this result. To us, who have all along maintained the utter futility of penal enactments in eradicating corruption, intimidation, and undue influences of all sorts from our electoral system, the prospect of an early introduction of secret voting is doubly grateful; and we should like, though we can scarcely hope as much, to see the adoption of the ballot accompanied by a clean sweep of all penal enactments on this subject from the statute-book. As we have always maintained, the only effectual way of putting an end to bribery, intimidation, and undue influence is by making them unprofitable. This, so far as intimidation and undue influence—landlord bullying and priestly cajoling—are concerned, the ballot will, we believe, effectually accomplish. Men—and women too—will abstain from worrying voters for their suffrages when they

know that their urgency may only have the effect of driving them into secret—and therefore safe—antagonism; and candidates will be chary of spending money in bribery when they have no guarantee of obtaining the stipulated *quid pro quo*. But, taking the lowest view of human nature—and, perhaps, in this matter of electoral corruption, he does not think amiss who thinks the worst he can of human-kind—we believe the most effectual way of "stamping out" bribery would be to legalise it, for then marketable votes would probably become so plentiful that nobody would care to buy, and so cheap that it would hardly be worth anybody's while to sell. At all events, the disclosures made in the electoral assize that has for weeks been holden, and is still going on, throughout the land, prove that penal enactments are ineffectual; that, even in the face of the stringent measure passed last Session, corruption, intimidation, and undue influence were more rampant during the late election than ever; and we suspect that the result of the trials will only be, not to deter candidates and their friends from improper practices, but to teach agents how to evade the law and to perpetuate impurity of election with impunity. We hail, then, the prospect of a speedy introduction of a system of secret voting as likely to bring in an era when purity and freedom of election will be real, in which men who have reason to conceal how they vote may do so, while those who have no such cause may proclaim their opinions, if they please, in the market-place and from the house-top.

Another encouraging sign of the times is the reception accorded to Mr. Locke-King's bill for assimilating the law of real property to that of personality in cases of intestacy. That, too, was wont to be scouted as often as proposed; and now the principle of the measure is approved by Government through the mouth of the Premier; and the arguments adduced against it—if arguments they can be called—are so contradictory, extravagant, and absurd, as to be unworthy of answer—in so far, that is, as those who adduce them do not answer each other. When on such a question men are reduced, like Mr. Henley, to raising an unmeaning howl of "Confiscation!" the only reply they deserve is one which we may borrow from the right hon. gentleman himself, namely, "Fudge! fudge!"

The success that has attended the measures identified with the names of Mr. Henry Berkeley and Mr. Locke-King may well encourage Mr. Vernon Harcourt—who, by-the-way, has made an excellent début, and is already beginning to make his influence felt in the House, an effect which, we hope, he will not spoil by talking over-much—to persevere in his efforts to secure a full, fair, and perfect register of voters, and thereby a full, fair, and complete representation of the people in Parliament. This, at present, is far from being the case. The lists prepared by the overseers in boroughs are exceedingly faulty; thousands of qualified persons are omitted; frivolous and vexatious objections are made wholesale; voters are put to a vast deal of unnecessary trouble, annoyance, and expense; and revising barristers' law is the most varied and uncertain of all legal uncertainties. Mr. Harcourt proposes that the task of preparing the lists should be transferred from the hands of the overseers to those of a registration officer in each borough, and that his work should be subject to review by the revising barrister, with an appeal from his decision to the Court of Common Pleas, as at present. We should be inclined to go a step further, and to abolish altogether revising barristers, whose action, during last registration at all events, was to make confusion, not to mend it. Let competent men of legal training be appointed to the post of registration officer; give free and absolute right of appeal from his decision direct to the higher courts; and we shall have at once a cheaper, a simpler, and a more efficient system of registration than that now in operation. The charges made by the overseers, the revising barristers' fees, and the costs attending the holding of their courts, would be sufficient to remunerate fully qualified men for performing the duties of registration officers; and we cannot see why such men, who would hold their office as a permanency during good behaviour, should not interpret the law as wisely and administer it as fairly, helped as they would be by local knowledge of their own districts, as men appointed to the temporary position of revising barrister, without such local knowledge and with the temptation to domineer and play those fantastic tricks to which we are told men dressed in a little brief authority are prone. At all events, the suggestion is worthy of consideration, and we commend it to Mr. Vernon Harcourt's attention.

THE HOLBORN VALLEY IMPROVEMENT.

THE Holborn Viaduct, with its numerous accessory works, is at present best known to the majority as a grand obstruction of traffic and a cause of considerable inconvenience and loss of time and patience. It is, however, a work that will well repay attentive examination. The viaduct, it is understood, will be opened in the course of the summer, and is a more complicated work than a casual spectator might imagine. Besides having sewers, in subways, one on each side, to receive the house-drains and the drainage from the roadway, it includes extensive vaulting under the carriage-way, for letting; vaults, in two or three tiers, to form part of the cellars of the houses; and the most complete provision for the water and gas mains and the telegraph wires in subways; whereof there is one under each footpath and over the sewer subway. There is also a subway for the mains and wires along the new street to the meat market, now called Charterhouse-street.

The question of the improvement was taken into serious consideration in 1863, and an Act was passed in 1864.

The improvement, as at last commenced by Mr. W. Haywood, included not only the viaduct between the end of Hatton-garden and the western end of Newgate-street, 80 ft. in width, and the opening of the street, now Charterhouse-street, 60 ft. in width, to Farringdon-road, to form line with the street to the market, but

also the making a gradual rise in Farringdon-road for a portion of its length, and the formation of an eastern approach to the latter road, 50 ft. in width, starting from the viaduct at the south-western angle of St. Sepulchre's Church, and providing another line of access to the market by King-street. It also included the widening of Shoe-lane at the northern end to 30 ft., besides a prolongation of it, under the viaduct, to a junction with the "western approach," otherwise Charterhouse-street. Further, it included a street, south-eastwards, and 50 ft. in width, from opposite the end of Hatton-garden, past the south-western angle of St. Andrew's Church, and down into Shoe-lane opposite the north-western angle of Farringdon Market. Thus, with a proposed widening of Shoe-lane to Stonecutter-street, the provision of communications between the high levels and the low level would be complete—except that there would be no street from Newgate-street south-westerly to Farringdon-street—for which the gradients would have been very steep, unless by interfering with a large amount of property. This is the project that is being carried into effect. As regards the actual gradients, those of the viaduct deviate from perfect level only so much as conduces to surface-drainage without danger of horses slipping. Thus, from Newgate-street to St. Sepulchre's Church the fall will be 1 foot to 695 feet of length; westward to the Farringdon-street bridge it will be 1 in 153; and from Hatton-garden to the same bridge it will be 1 in 143. The 80 ft. width of the viaduct is made up of a carriage-way of 50 ft., and of the footways, which are each 15 ft. in width, measuring in space above the vaults and areas of the houses. The footways in Charterhouse-street are 12 ft. 6 in. At the western end of the viaduct, the several old and new lines, six in number (counting Hatton-garden, Holborn, and a new access to Bartlett's buildings, besides the two new streets to the lower level—namely, Charterhouse-street and the street to Shoe-lane, which last is only commenced), radiate from a circus which will be 170 ft. in diameter, formed by cutting off what would have been sharp angles of the houses. In the centre of this is a flagged space of 40 ft.; which it may be advisable to reduce to 30 ft.

The whole of the houses that formed Skinner-street are removed, besides a south-eastern portion of St. Sepulchre's churchyard; and Snow-hill will be absorbed in the eastern approach street. This street will cross the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, as does now the viaduct. Provision has been made for two more pairs of rails crossing under the viaduct, additional to the two of the present railway. The viaduct runs straight to Farringdon-street, and thence westward by a slight curve, taking in the sites of the houses that formed the southern side of Holborn-hill, and the greater portion of what was the roadway. A large piece taken off the churchyard of St. Andrew's, Holborn, involved the removal to the City cemetery at Ilford of the remains of 10,000 to 12,000 people. There will now be a descent of steps to the church-entrance.

Let us now look at the internal construction of this great work. The carriage-way of the viaduct is carried by a series of arches, like those of a railway viaduct. Outside them—that is to say, on each side the line of viaduct, and under a portion of the footways—are the subways. Each is 7 ft. 6 in. wide; and each of the two upper ones is 11 ft. 6 in. in height; below the flooring of that is a lofty space, at the bottom of which is the sewer. Outside of all are the vaults for the future houses. They are three tiers in height at the portion of the viaduct next to Farringdon-street; at some distance they are two tiers, whilst at the extremities of the viaduct they are one tier. Small openings are formed in the walls between the upper vaults and the upper subway, through which the water and gas service pipes for the houses can be passed; so that there will be no occasion to break through the brickwork. This subway is arched over at the top, and has the flooring of stone landing, with a little gutter-channel at the side, to take any wet accidentally finding admission from above. To the gutter are conducted the mouths of pipes which lead down from the haunches of the main arches of the viaduct, and which will take whatever soakage there may be from the street-surface, or what does not run to the gutters next the footway. This water drips from the subway to the sewer below by bell-trapped gratings fitted into the landing. On one side of the subway are two tiers of iron brackets from the wall, to carry the mains of the gas companies; and on the other side are brackets to carry telegraph-wires. The water-mains will be fixed on cradles, which are set on the stone flooring. There is also a tramway-rail to guide the wheel of a truck, for carriage of materials when required. Where the subways cross the railway, they are constructed of iron, in place of brickwork. The sewers cross below the railway. At each end of the subways, as well as beneath the bridges at Farringdon-street and Shoe-lane, are entrances for the admission of workpeople. Each upper subway is well lighted from the footway through large openings filled in with glazed gratings, the pieces of glass being small round bosses.

Much importance must be attached to this particular application of subways to the purposes for which such underground channels were first suggested. Many of our readers may be aware that the gas companies for some time successfully resisted the efforts of the Metropolitan Board of Works to get the companies to carry their mains along the subways; and may recollect that the board had to go to Parliament for powers to compel the use of the ways and to prevent the continuance of the practice of breaking up the street-pavement. The gas-engineers thought that there were no means of preventing occasional explosions from gas escaped from the pipes and collected in the subway. Mr. Haywood has made provision against accidents; and, at least in the subways of the viaduct, it would seem to be sufficient. First, the mains are everywhere exposed in the subway, so that leakage could soon be detected and stopped. Then there are multiplied contrivances for the ventilation of the subway. Not to mention the small openings into the house-vaults—though these alone might have been the means of extending the area of an explosion—there are large unglazed openings over the doors of access from Farringdon-street and Shoe-lane, through which there would be a constant influx of air; and there are circular openings to the footway, for escape, and pipes which are carried from the subway into the party walls of the houses, and will be continued to exit-openings at the top of those walls. Then there are openings into the hollow pedestal-bases of the street lamp-posts—each pedestal being cast with small holes in certain places, through which gas might escape, whilst the hollow of the pedestal is separated from that of the shaft above by a diaphragm to prevent any passage to the gas-flame in the lantern. Under Charterhouse-street there is only one subway, under the carriage-way and over the sewer, and resembling in most respects the form adopted by the Metropolitan Board of Works. It is ventilated by openings like the ordinary ventilators to be seen in every London street that has a sewer, but is not lighted except by gas. Large arched openings are formed in the sides of this subway, in place of the small apertures of the other subways, for the purpose of making the connections for the gas and water services to the houses. The Charterhouse-street subway is connected with the upper subways of the viaduct; and, close to the flagged centre of the circus, and below the pavement, a shaft is constructed of sufficient dimensions for the long-st piece of piping to be passed in there to either of the subways.

As already explained, there is a sewer-subway below each of the subways of the gas and water mains; but each of the two sewers of the viaduct occupies only a small portion of the large space that there is. The sewer forms a channel, 2 ft. 6 in. in width at the top, running alongside one of the walls, and being semi-elliptical in cross section, and 2 ft. 6 in. deep to the invert. The remainder of the 7 ft. of width—that is, 4 ft. 6 in.—forms a paved way, for use when requisite in cleansing or repairing the sewers and the drains connected with them. The house-drains pass under the paved way, to enter the sewer; whilst the water from the street gullies descends by stoneware piping in the thickness of the wall on the opposite side, and falls into the sewer through trapped openings. The gullies themselves, in the street, are likewise trapped; and the piping is so arranged, with a cover at the top, below the street-pavement, that any obstruction in it can

he reached. The sewer-subway is ventilated by flues which are to be carried up in the party-walls of the houses, somewhat similarly to the pipes from the other subway.

It will thus be observed that the only places where the street-pavement will ever require to be disturbed, in the case of the viaduct, are the little bits of paving—say about 12 in. square, which there are over each pipe attached to a gully, and some spaces, of which we have mentioned one as at the Holborn-circus. For all ordinary purposes the ample entrances that there are by the doors from Farringdon-street and Shoe-lane, with one or two flaps of the ordinary kind, as at the Newgate-street end, will suffice, whether for getting at a sewer, or a gas or water main, or for managing the connection of a house-drain, or that of the service-pipes of water or gas to the houses, or for fixing and repairing telegraph-wires.

As regards the space below the carriage-way, the series of arches has a central road, 10 ft. 6 in. in width, through the piers, so as to get access for large trucks to any part of the length from the entrances, which are under the bridges in Farringdon-street and Shoe-lane. The spaces right and left of this central way would require only fronts of boards or brickwork to be each completely inclosed. It is expected that the structural advantages of these vaults, particularly the securing uniform temperature, will command for them good rental. The proprietors of the houses may not them, accesses being then formed, bridged over the sewer and below the upper subway, where there is ample space. The ventilation will be through openings into the carriage-way, of the form of sewer-ventilators.

It remains only to notice the Farringdon-street and Shoe-lane bridges. The latter of these is in one span, and formed of wrought-iron main-girders and cast-iron cross-girders, forming square spaces, which are covered by iron buckled plates to receive the substructure of the paving. The Farringdon-street bridge is in three spans, or corresponding with the carriage-way and the two footways. It crosses the line of Farringdon-street, not at right angles, but so much askew as to mar seriously the architectural effect; and it is not easy to say how the defect could have been avoided in planning the viaduct, or in treating decoratively the bridge. As the case is, the defect resulting from the skew is increased rather than at all diminished in appearance by the treatment of the four buildings flanking the bridge abutments; for those portions of the general structure are repetitions of one another, whilst they become unsymmetrical from the centre of one front not being opposite to the centre of another. The general character of their details is, in common with a architecture that is worthy of the name of art, rather difficult of description, by reason of inapplicability of old terms; but would, perhaps, be called Italian, greatly modified, however, though it is, by Gothic peculiarities. These last extend to the piers of the bridge, which are composed of detached pillars and half-pillars, with shafts and mouldings of different kinds of granite, mostly polished. The shaft of each pillar is of the Ross of Mull red granite; the capitals are of the Kemnay granite, from Aberdeen, and are to be ornamented with bronze leaves; the block with mouldings of the base is of the black Guernsey granite; and the lofty plinth, which is the lowest of all, is of Cornish granite. On the capital is a block of Ross of Mull granite; from which will spring the arched ribs, or iron main-girders, across the carriage-way, and the girders across the footways. There are six of the girders to each span, not counting the outer facing-work, each carried by pillars of the kind mentioned, of which there will be twenty-four in all, or twelve of them lining the carriage-way. The bridge is not sufficiently advanced for description of the general appearance of its fronts; but we believe that pedestals of granite will be carried up to the level of the ornamental iron railing which will form the parapet, on which will be placed statues (four in number) cast in bronze by Messrs. Elkington. The girders over the carriage-way will have a span of 61 ft., and a rise of 5 ft. 1 in., forming the arch in outline. The height in the centre will be 21 ft. from the road-surface. The spandrel-spaces will be filled in with scrollwork, having the City griffin in the centre; and over the arch, on the balustrade, will be the City arms. The main-girders, each of which is, in fact, composed of two, parallel and bolted together, carry cross-girders; and these carry corrugated plates, 1 in. thick, to support the materials of the roadway. Each of the four staircases has flights of steps, 10 ft. 9 in. in width, inclosed, but at the same time thoroughly lighted and ventilated, and they will afford ample communication for pedestrians between the two levels. The space beneath the steps will be appropriated as shops or warehouses in Farringdon-street and Farringdon-road; whilst the superstructure connected with the viaduct will be suitable for offices or purposes analogous.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

It was reported in Paris a few days ago that the Emperor contemplated an entire change of Ministers, with the view of reviving Ministerial responsibility; but this statement is positively denied. M. Devienne has been appointed Chief President of the Cour de Cassation.

As far back as the year 1863 the French Government seized the first two volumes of a work by the Duke of Aumale upon the Princes of Condé, and although legal steps were taken to regain possession of these volumes, nothing came of them. The Judges decided that the seizure was an Administrative act, and that their authority did not reach it. This view was also held by the Council of State; and the book, which was in sheets just ready for binding, remained in the hands of the Government. Within the last few days, however, the sheets have been given up to the publisher, and an offer has even been made, it is said, to repay him the expenses he has incurred in legal proceedings. The restitution, like the seizure, would appear to be a purely arbitrary act.

BELGIUM.

The Belgian Chamber has passed a bill, by 71 votes against 12, abolishing imprisonment for debt. An amendment maintaining the penalty in the case of newspapers condemned to damages was rejected.

The Senate, in its sitting on Wednesday, adopted the Budget of the Minister of Justice by 32 votes against 28.

SPAIN.

The Cortes last Saturday appointed a committee to inquire into the proposal for the abolition of the conscription, both military and naval. An act of incendiarism took place in the evening; the barracks of the former Royal Guard were fired, and some soldiers were injured.

There was a stormy debate in the Cortes on Monday. The Republicans made an attack upon the Duke of Montpensier, and blamed the Government for not removing him from his position as Marshal of the Spanish army. The appointment, they urged, was made for dynastic reasons, and ought to have lapsed with the fall of the Bourbons. General Prim said in reply that the Provisional Government did not consider themselves empowered to take so serious a step as that of relieving the Duke of his appointment. He declared that the question was raised by the Opposition for the purpose of committing the Government to an opinion on the choice of a Sovereign. Admiral Topete looked upon the matter in the same light, and accepted the challenge thrown out. For his own part, he frankly declared that if the choice were between the Duke of Montpensier as King and the establishment of a republic, he would prefer the Duke. After this Marshal Serrano seems to have thought it time to interfere. The time was not yet come, he said, to discuss the choice of a Sovereign; upon that matter the decision of the Cortes would be supreme, and Admiral Topete, in expressing his predilection for the Duke of Montpensier as against a republic, had spoken only for himself.

The Cortes has adopted a bill granting an amnesty for press offences and putting a stop to all pending prosecutions.

After a hard fight, General Dulce has beaten the Cuban insurgents—that is, one wing of them; and the Spanish Government has telegraphed to the General to spare the lives of those prisoners who have been condemned to death.

GERMANY.

The Session of the Prussian Diet was closed last Saturday by a Speech from the Throne, in which the House was thanked for its approval of the Budget, and the necessity for economy was recognised, in order that the equilibrium of the finances might be restored. Measures upon education and local government were promised for next Session.

In Tuesday's sitting of the North German Parliament Herr Simon was re-elected President by a great majority; and Duke Ujst and Herr von Bennigsen were also re-elected Vice-Presidents by large majorities.

AUSTRIA.

The Lower House of the Reichsrath has agreed to the estimates of the expenditure for the Ministry of Finance, 85,020,371 fl.; for the Ministry of Commerce, 13,630,700 fl.; and for the Ministry of Agriculture, 2,176,300 fl. The estimates of the revenue of the Ministry of Finance, 259,318,425 fl.; and of the Ministry of Commerce, 12,212,500 fl. were also adopted.

GREECE.

According to the Vienna Press, the new Greek Ministry is reported to have sent a very conciliatory message to Constantinople expressing its desire that Photiades-Bey, the former representative of the Porte at Athens, should resume his post there.

The restoration of amicable relations between Greece and Turkey has been followed by the appointment of a new Greek Minister to the Ottoman Court, in the person of M. Kalergis.

THE UNITED STATES.

President Grant has accepted the resignation of Mr. Stewart as Secretary of the Treasury. The following nominations made by President Grant have been confirmed by the Senate:—Mr. Columbus Delano, Commissioner of Internal Revenue; General Sherman, General, and General Sheridan, Lieutenant-General, of the United States Army.

General Butler has carried in the House his bill repealing the Tenure of Office Act, the vote being 116 ayes to 16 noes.

General Schenck's Finance Bill, notwithstanding its passage by the two Houses, has failed to become law. Through the adjournment of Congress before the expiration of the ten days allowed for executive consideration, it did not obtain the signature of President Johnson.

In New Hampshire the Republicans have carried all the elections. The States of Maine, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin have ratified the Negro Suffrage Amendment.

INDIA.

The financial statement of the Indian Government was delivered at Calcutta on Monday. A deficit is shown in the complete accounts; for 1867-8 of £1,610,517, and in the estimates for 1868-9 of £2,801,244. For 1869-70 there is an estimated surplus of £52,650. An income tax of 1 per cent is proposed. The loans to be negotiated amount to £5,000,000.

ANOTHER FATAL DUEL IN ITALY.—A duel of a very distressing character has just taken place at Bologna. Two students had a discussion at dinner upon some trifling matter, lost their tempers, quarrelled, and a challenge was the result. The encounter was with pistols, at twenty paces, each combatant having the right to advance five. Lots having been drawn, the young man entitled to fire first discharged his weapon, and sent a bullet through the other's temple, killing him on the spot. The two persons were the Marquis Giovanni Mazzacorta and the Marquis Pizzardi; the former being the adversary who was killed and who had sent the challenge.

NEW AND GIGANTIC PLANT.—Within the last few days living specimens have been forwarded to this country from Nicaragua of one of the most gigantic plants in the vegetable kingdom. It is closely allied to the arums (or "Lords and Ladies") of our hedges, and, until the present time, has wholly escaped the notice of travelling botanists. It produces but one leaf, nearly 14 ft. in length, supported on a stalk 10 ft. long. The stem of the flower is a foot in circumference; the spathe, or flower, 2 ft. long, purplish blue in colour, with a powerful carrion-like odour. As this remarkable species of Aroidæ is quite new to science, it has not yet received a name.—*Builder*.

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

GENERAL GRANT'S PROCLAMATION.

GENERAL GRANT was inaugurated as President of the United States on Thursday, March 4. The following is his inaugural proclamation:—

Citizens.—Your suffrages have elected me to the office of President. I have taken the oath prescribed by the Constitution without mental reservation, and with the determination to do, to the best of my ability, all that is required of me. The responsibility of my position I feel, but I accept it without fear; the office which has been conferred upon me was unsought. On leading questions I will express my views to Congress when I think it advisable. I will interpose my veto to defeat measures to which I am opposed; but all laws will be faithfully executed, whether they meet with my approval or not. I shall have a policy to recommend, but none to enforce against the will of the people. The laws are to govern all those approving as well as those opposing them. I know no method to secure the repeal of obnoxious laws so effectual as the stringent execution of them.

Many questions will arise during the next four years, and it is desirable that they should be appreciated calmly and without prejudice, the greatest good of the greatest number being the object to be obtained. This requires security for the person, for property, and for religious and political opinions throughout the country. All laws to secure this end will receive my best efforts towards their enforcement.

A great debt has been contracted in securing the Union, the payment of which and a return to a specie basis, as soon as it can be accomplished without detriment to the debtor class, or to the country at large, must be provided. To protect the national honour, every dollar of the Government indebtedness should be paid in gold, unless otherwise expressly stipulated at the time of being contracted. Let it be understood that there must be no repudiation of a single farthing of the public debt, and it will go far towards strengthening our credit, which ought to be the best in the world, and will ultimately enable us to replace the debt with bonds paying less interest than we now pay. To this should be added the faithful collection of the revenue, strict accountability to the Treasury for every dollar collected, and the greatest practicable retrenchment. Who doubts the feasibility of paying every dollar with more ease than we now pay for useless luxuries?

Prostrate commerce must be rebuilt and industry encouraged. The young men of this country have a peculiar interest in maintaining the national honour. A moment's reflection upon our future commanding influence among nations should inspire national pride. How the public debt is to be paid and how specie payment is to be resumed are not so important as that some plan should be adopted. The united determination to do is worth more than divided counsel on the method of doing. Legislation on this subject may not now be necessary, nor even advisable, but will be so when civil law is fully restored throughout the land and trade shall have resumed its wonted channels.

It shall be my endeavour to execute the laws in good faith, to collect all the revenues assessed, and to have them properly disbursed. I will, to the best of my ability, appoint only officers who will carry out this design.

Regarding foreign policy, I would deal with nations as equitably as the law requires that individuals should deal with each other. I would protect law-abiding citizens, whether of native or foreign birth, whenever their rights are jeopardised and wherever the flag of our country floats. I would respect the rights of all nations, and demand equal respect for our own. If others depart from this rule in dealing with us, we may be compelled to follow the precedent.

The proper treatment of the Indians deserves careful consideration. I will favour any course tending to their civilisation, Christianisation, and ultimate citizenship.

I hope for and desire the adoption of the suffrage amendment to the Constitution.

In conclusion, I ask for patient forbearance one towards the other throughout the land, and a determined effort on the part of every citizen to share and cement our happy union, and I ask for prayers to God on behalf of this happy consummation.

GENERAL GRANT'S CABINET.

Mr. E. B. Washburne, of Illinois, the new Secretary of State, has long been the most intimate personal and political friend of General Grant. It is probably due to his fidelity and untiring energy that General Grant was permitted to finish his career in the army; for it is no secret that there was a time when the

soldier whose greatness is now known was so much distrusted at Washington that his removal from his western command was almost resolved on. Mr. Washburne believed in him, and persuaded President Lincoln to believe in him, till the day came when he needed no advocate. As a legislator Mr. Washburne's name is as familiarly and honourably known as that of any representative in the House, where he has sat for fifteen years, earning the hatred of every lobbyist who wanted to plunder the Treasury. There have been men in the House not less honest, but never a man more vigilant, more capable to detect and baffle the thousand devices by which bills, innocent on their face, are made to cover a contemplated fraud. In knowledge of Parliamentary law and familiarity with the methods of legislation he was without a rival on the floor of the House. His anti-slavery record goes back to the days when opposition to slavery was so unpopular as to be almost fatal to hopes of political success; and his zeal did not grow cold in late years, when he stood by the side of Thaddeus Stevens as a leader of his party in its reconstruction policy. It is not known that he has any special familiarity with foreign affairs, with which he will have to deal as Secretary of State; but he has a clear intellect, habits of industry, and an unflinching fund of common sense—possibly not less helpful than a diplomatic training. It was supposed that he would go into the Treasury or Interior; but he is probably the one man who had a choice of offices, and he has chosen, not unnaturally, what is considered the first place in the Cabinet.

Mr. Alexander T. Stewart, Secretary of the Treasury, is a native of Ireland, who went young and poor to New York, and now ranks with those famous millionaires who, like Astor and Girard, created great fortunes by their own energies and singular capacity for business. As a merchant he is better known in America than any other living man. The house of A. T. Stewart and Co. does what is known as an importing and jobbing business in dry goods—that is, in cotton, silk, and woollen fabrics—their sales of which have been until lately larger than those of any other firm. Their amount—not, as a contemporary affirms, the income of Mr. Stewart—has of late exceeded 40,000,000 dols. annually (about £10,000,000), and Mr. Stewart paid a tax in one year on an income of a million and a half. Before the war he was a Democrat, but abandoned his party in order to sustain the war, to which he contributed great sums. He has long been intimate with General Grant, and often mentioned as his probable Finance Minister. Neither his ability nor his integrity will be doubted by anybody. In dividing the Cabinet into Conservative and Radical Republicans, Mr. Stewart must be classed with the former; but he is not a man who will seek to exercise much influence on purely political questions outside of his own department. However, if we may place implicit credence in a telegram from Washington, President Grant has already encountered a check of a nature that indicates the limitations under which the powers of his office must be exercised. After he had appointed Mr. Stewart, finding that an existing law withheld the post of Secretary of the Treasury from any person engaged in trade, he "requested" Congress to repeal the enactment. The Senate very sensibly demurred to complying off-hand with the request; and thereupon Mr. Stewart tendered his resignation.

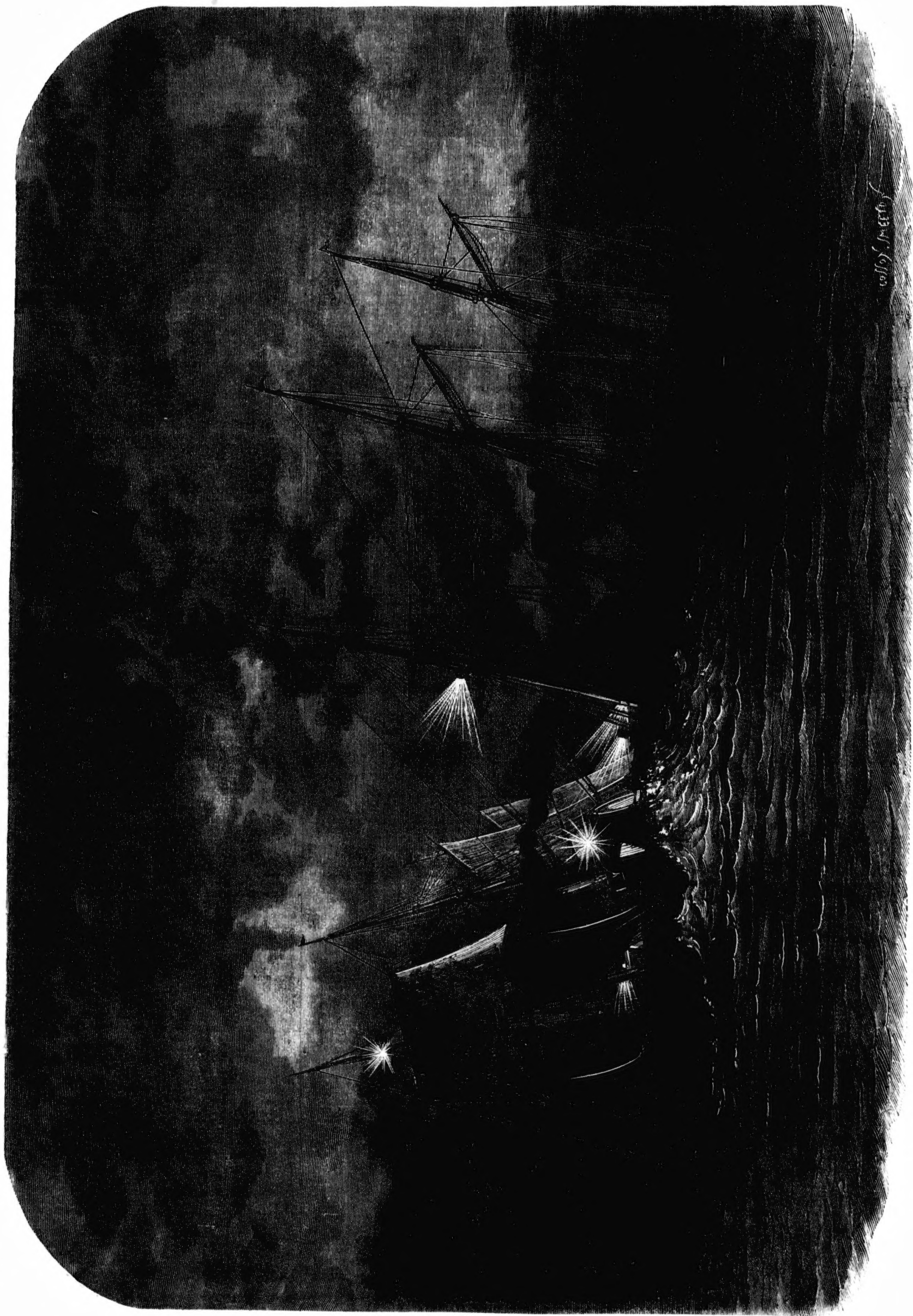
General Schofield, the youngest man in the Cabinet, born in 1831, was appointed Secretary of War by President Johnson upon the final resignation of Secretary Stanton. Alone among all the members of the retiring Cabinet, General Schofield is reappointed by General Grant; but his appointment is a temporary one, and is avowedly made as a compliment to General Schofield's administrative ability. It is not to be regarded as having any political significance whatever. In conversation with some gentlemen who visited him on Feb. 23, General Grant avowed his intention to keep General Schofield in office for a few weeks; adding, however, that he was opposed in principle to putting a General at the head of the War Department, and that a substitute would soon be named.

The Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Borie, is the least-known man in the Cabinet, but is likely in the end to be very favourably known. He is a Philadelphia banker of great wealth and of high standing in that city, both commercially and socially. Early in the war Mr. Borie was one of the founders of the well-known Union League of Philadelphia, which proved in time a powerful political organisation. It may be added that Mr. Borie is not only Republican but Radical, and that where he is best known his appointment will be most approved. He and Mr. Stewart and Mr. Washburne are the three grey-headed members of the Cabinet, all the rest being young men.

The Secretary of the Interior, General Jacob D. Cox, is but forty-one years of age, and is a Canadian by birth. He was first heard of in the war, in which he started as Brigadier-General, without previous military training, yet soon acquired distinction, driving General Wise out of West Virginia, remaining some time in command of the district he had conquered, and subsequently, on his promotion to be Major-General, being assigned to a division. At the Battle of Turner's Gap, more commonly called South Mountain, he led his Ohio regiments very brilliantly, defeating a strongly-posted Confederate force, sharing afterwards in some of the bloodiest victories of the army of the Potomac. Subsequently he was transferred to the army of the Tennessee, and served—always with merit—under General Schofield. In 1865, after the close of the war, he was chosen Governor of the great State of Ohio by 30,000 majority; his political success being due, like that of many other fortunate commanders, to his military triumphs. During his governorship it was not always easy to assign him either to the Radical or Conservative wing of the Republican party; but his inclinations seemed to carry him along with the progressive men, as far as his prudence would permit.

Mr. John A. J. Cresswell, the new Postmaster-General, is that *rara avis* among American politicians, an anti-slavery Southerner, born in Maryland—Mr. Beverdy Johnson's State—in 1823. His political life dates from 1861; but his national reputation was first earned in 1865, when he entered the United States Senate, and astonished the North and South together by his outspoken Radicalism. He gained a reputation as a speaker and as a statesman almost from the first moment of his appearance. His political associates were such unmistakable Radicals as Senator Wade, of Ohio, and Chandler, of Michigan; but he was indebted to himself only for the position he won, and during his short term he did much to redeem Maryland from the odium which her sympathy with treason and her representatives of doubtful loyalty in both Houses had brought upon her. There was no chance of his retaining a seat for Maryland. Men lamented his exclusion from the career which seemed to open before him, but it was certain that he would not abandon his opinions, and not likely that Maryland would renounce her heresies in his favour. His present appointment restores him to a place of eminence and of public usefulness.

Different telegrams have named two different men for Attorney-General, nor are we able to say whether Mr. E. Rockwood Hoar or Mr. George F. Hoar is the real man. They are brothers, both eminent as barristers, both anti-slavery Republicans, dating from 1848 and earlier, when the first free-soil movement was organised in Massachusetts. Rockwood Hoar, as he is commonly called, is the elder by some ten years, and has been for eight years one of the justices of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. Upon the death of the late Chief Justice Shaw Mr. Hoar was generally looked to as his successor, but the place was given to Mr. Justice Bigelow, and upon his retirement Mr. Hoar's claims were again put aside for those of an inferior magistrate, Mr. Justice Chapman. If he has been made Attorney-General of the United States, the bench of Massachusetts has lost its best legal mind. His younger brother, George F., is a barrister of scarcely less ability, though less widely known out of the State. He had been chosen, in November last, to represent the eighth district of Massachusetts in the present Congress, a seat which he must resign if he is to be Attorney-General. Both are Radicals, though Mr. Justice Hoar's long experience of the



COLLISION AT SEA BETWEEN THE STEAM SHIPS LATOUCHE-TEVILLÉ AND PRINCE PIERRE.

bench has had its inevitable influence, and he may be said to have grown towards Conservatism on such political questions as have a legal side to them. On the general policy of reconstruction, he is to be reckoned a cordial advocate of the most advanced measures of Congress. Both are men of high social position, and of a culture exceptional even in that most cultivated of States, Massachusetts.

A STRANGE RELIGIOUS SECT.

A religious sect, called the "Skopen," whose peculiar views enjoin the most barbarous practices, has existed in Russia for many years past, but has hitherto succeeded in escaping the vigilance of the police. The doctrine from which it derives its name is the mortification of the flesh, which it interprets as a signifying self-mortification. The members devote themselves to trade, and are very wealthy. The Government has long been anxious to discover the leaders of this sect, as also the place in which their treasures were hoarded, but all its attempts have been baffled till a few weeks ago. Somewhere about the year 1850, Count Porevsky, the Russian Minister of the Interior, endeavored to penetrate the mystery by the assistance of a clever agent, who adopted the manners of the sect, attended their meetings, and pretended to be one of themselves. One day the agent told the Minister that the operation of mutilation was to be performed that evening on a new convert. It was accordingly arranged that the house should be surrounded by a large body of police, which was to appear at a certain signal from the agent; but the signal was never given. A few days afterwards the agent presented himself, looking very ill, and declared that he had made a mistake in the day. Shortly afterwards he left St. Petersburg, giving on explanation that his wife had inherited some property in the country. It was not till after his death that the truth was discovered through the confession of the widow. Without his having any idea of the intentions of the Skopen, it was himself whom they proposed to receive into their body as a new member, and they effected their object by force. As soon as it was accomplished, the head of the Skopen approached him and said:—

"I am glad you have become one of us. If you leave us it will not benefit you, and you will fall a victim to our revenge. You receive only a thousand roubles annual salary from the Government; but if you will be true to us, here are 25,000 roubles down as compensation for your sufferings, and besides this you shall receive 1000 roubles monthly." The agent knew what sort of people he had to do with, and closed with the bargain at once. Herr von Hasting, the civil governor of Tansow; Herr Abbas, the vice-governor; and Herr Truchsess, the head of the police, have recently discovered the leader of the Skopen at Monechank, in the person of a certain rich merchant named Maxim Platyrin. His house is so large as to occupy almost a whole suburb, and contains a kind of Skopen nunnery. Nine nuns were residing there at the time, and among them a sister of Platyrin. The pictures of Sellawnow, Schlow, and other prophets of the sect were found in one of the rooms. Search was made in the cellar for the treasure, and at first without result, as nothing was found but a large quantity of old clothes and other similar lumber. At last, after passing through six vaults, on entering the seventh apartment was excited by a large store which stood in one corner, and appeared never to have been properly fitted up for use. On further examination an iron door was discovered behind it, leading to a secret receptacle containing untold wealth. Besides enormous chests full of gold imperial, there were about fifteen millions of silver roubles and above ten millions in bank-notes. The revelations respecting the Skopen form the great subject of conversation at St. Petersburg at present—all the more so as the sect has extensive ramifications, and is believed to have political objects in view.

FACTS FOR TAXPAYERS AND CONSUMERS.

On Monday a black-book was published containing the twelfth annual report of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, a document full of facts interesting to the British taxpayer and consumer. From this report it appears that the total income tax for the year ended March 31 last was £29,268,782, showing an increase of only £109,001 on the returns of the previous year, although there was an increase in the proceeds of the income tax (arising from the imposition of an extra penny) amounting to upwards of half a million, but there was a corresponding falling off in the excise. The progressive increase in the consumption of spirits noticed in former years was not observable in 1901-2. In England the decrease was little more than nominal, but in Scotland and Ireland the check to consumption was more marked. There was an increase in the number of detections of illicit distillation in England and Scotland, but still the number was so small, as not to cause any serious alarm for the security of the revenue; but in Ireland, where offences of this kind are more rife, there was an extraordinary diminution, the number of detections having

fallen from 3575 in 1895-6 to 1006 in the following year, a result which is mainly attributed to the continued high price of barley and oats. No less than 38,603,923 lb. of sugar were used in the brewing of beer in 1901, an increase upon the consumption of the previous year for the same purpose amounting to over 12,000,000 lb. The explanation is that worse are produced at less cost from sugar of the quality now used than from malt, and brewers also better understand the art of brewing from sugar than they formerly did. Smokers will no doubt applaud the zeal of the Commissioners when they learn that the quantity of adulterated tobacco seized by the officers of Inland Revenue amounted to no less than 28,000 lb. in Ireland, 4000 lb. in England, and 6 lb. in Scotland. The net penalty recovered amounted to £1267 10s., and the duty on the forfeited tobacco is estimated at £5,000. From the appendix to this report it seems that the total quantity of tobacco cleared for consumption in the United Kingdom in 1901 was 4,053,619 lb., which was equivalent to 1 lb. 54 oz. per head of the population. Of the 118 samples from the excise examined, 88 or 75 per cent were found to

be adulterated; and of 68 received from the customs 47 or 69 per cent were adulterated. Forty-five of the samples contained liquor, and the other adulterants were "common salt, unseasoned, starch, brown paper, and an excessive amount of sand!" With respect to the adulteration of beer, it appears that the use of grains of paradise has been almost exclusively confined, as hitherto, to small breweries in the midland counties, the adulterant used by publicans in London being simply treacle.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

A very interesting pamphlet has recently appeared in Paris, in the title of "Le Dossier Russe dans la Question d'Orient," and it is entitled the policy of Russia towards Poland and Turkey. From the pen of an eminent Oriental diplomat, who, however, does not publish his name. He says that, from the days of Peter the Great down to our own, Russia has always been expressing good feelings towards Turkey, while she has been at the same time attempting to ruin her. Some very curious revelations come out in this pamphlet. Here is one: General Delamare, Russian Consul-General in Egypt, had great influence over Mehmet Ali, who certainly needed nothing to excite him to revolt against the authority of his Sovereign. Nevertheless, the Consul was perpetually egging him on. As is well known, the troops of the Sultan were, in 1832, defeated at Koniah by the troops of the Viceroy, whose ambition was unbounded. After so many misfortunes, this blow further compromised the situation of the empire; and in this difficult circumstance the Cabinet of St. Petersburg hastened to offer its good and

generous services to the Porte. Admiral Rossini was then French Ambassador at Constantinople. The Sultan sent for him, and told him that, if he could depend on the support of France, not only would he refuse the offers of the Emperor Nicholas, but he would expel every Russian subject from his states. But, unfortunately, at that time the policy of France was in conformity with national traditions. The Government of July apud the Restoration, to which Russia had promised the frontiers of the Rhine, Admiral Rossini, to his regret, was not able to promise anything, and the Porte signed with Russia, on July 8, 1833, the famous treaty of Unkar Iskelent, a secret clause of which was the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus against the Western Powers, while it left them open to the Russian fleet. Turkey was more in the power of Russia than ever. The writer considers that the duty was in a great measure occasioned by the visit which the Emperor Nicholas paid in 1841 to St. Petersburg, and which he saw in a despatch of Count Nesselrode, his Majesty formed false conclusions, and believed that he had won England over to his designs. Some time after, at Constantinople, M. Balasinski, who was given to long talking, said at a private party at the Russian Embassy: "For us the question of the Holy Places never was of much importance. The French Government has made us all the concessions that we required. We ask of Turkey what she cannot give; and, as she will find herself in a critical position in consequence of a question raised by France, the Emperor Napoleon will feel himself bound to honor us by going to the rescue of Turkey. That is what we are waiting for. France and England will assist us, and Austria will be obliged to follow. Our fleet will sail from Sebastopol, the English fleet will leave Malta, and when we get the French and the two fleets we shall tell the Emperor what we wish, once for all, to settle the Eastern question. If he adheres, all right; he refuses, we shall sink his fleet, and the allies will march on France to rid us of an upstart, who might take it into his head to follow the course of the first emperors." The writer next enters into details of the Crimean War; and then winds up his amazing tale by pointing out the bad treatment that Turkey has received on so many occasions, and the incessant concessions extorted from her to the advantage of Russia. He considers that the preservation of the Ottoman empire is necessary to the peace of Europe, and that the Russian Empire is the common right of which Turkey, like any other State of Europe, should have the benefit. Then, depend on it, there will no longer be an Eastern question. There will remain only a simple question of Russian ambition, which will disappear whenever the Powers that signed the treaties before mentioned shall have sacrificed to St. Petersburg that Turkey claims the same right as themselves, and that it is their duty, their honor, and their interest to see that the really enjoy that right.

COLLISION BETWEEN THE LATOUCHE-TRÉVILLE AND THE PRINCE PIERRE.

In describing, in our last week's Number, the funeral obsequies accorded to the late Count Pacha at St. Petersburg, we mentioned the circumstances under which the steamships *Latouche-Tréville* and *Prince Pierre* had come into collision while the former was on her way to convey the remains of the Turkish statesman to their last resting-place. Our engraving this week portrays the scene presented to a spectator on board the *Latouche-Tréville* when the unlucky collision took place.

THE LATE M. DE LAMARTINE.

We have already, in our *Obituary* of last week, published an outline of the incidents that distinguished the life of the late eminent French poet, historian, and orator, M. Alphonse de Lamartine, of whom we now place a Portrait before our readers. M. de Lamartine's family, dying in his last wish, that he should be interred at his country parish, St. Point, near Maceon, did not accept the public funeral decreed by the Emperor. The decree therefore remains on record merely as a compliment. M. Emile Olivier, the only deputy who followed the corpse to St. Point, writes to M. Emile de Girardin a short account of the funeral, which is published in the *Zukunft*. The inhabitants of Maceon, where M. de Lamartine was born, and greatly beloved, turned out to look at the coffin when it arrived at the Maceon. M. de Lamartine was frequently opened, to enable the country population to look at the coffin and sprinkle it with holy water. Several persons kissed the coffin and wept over it. The only names of note among the mourners mentioned by M. Olivier are M. de Rost, and Holland. M. Olivier is careful to state that "a not a single political man of importance came from Paris, and no number of the Provisional Government." No speech was delivered over the grave, the deceased having expressly desired that none should be made.



THE LATE ALPHONSE DE LAMARTINE.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 347.

THE COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSE.

If we were called upon to decide whether the representatives of the people should be all gentlemen, who had never been compelled to earn a penny in their lives, or all traders, manufacturers, farmers, &c., we should certainly give our vote for the producers of and traders in wealth against the mere consumers. It must not, though, be thought that we would willingly exclude from Parliament the mere consumers. In the people's House let all the people be represented, for all have a deep interest in the government of the nation. But, as we have said, if we were forced to decide between the two classes we should vote for the producing and trading class; and for this reason. A trader or a manufacturer, including in the term the farmer, must be well and accurately informed, at least on the subject of his business and matters cognate thereto. And further, living as he does in the midst of the great middle class, and compelled by his vocation to come into daily contact with the poor, he certainly must know more about these classes than the mere consumer who lives above the line which separates the aristocratic order from the classes below it. No doubt there are gentlemen above the line who, though they never work for their living, have enlarged sympathies for those that do, and are very zealous to promote the welfare of the workers, especially the poorest of them. Nay, many of them have done good service in this direction. Indeed, when master workers have tyrannised over their servants, men of noble birth have bravely stepped in to prevent or mitigate the tyranny. Did not Lord Ashley, now the Earl of Shaftesbury, carry through the House of Commons the Ten Hours Bill? And further, many of these noblemen—noble in character as well as rank—have by industrious study made themselves acquainted to a creditable extent with the region below the line; but still they never can know that vast region as those who live in it. The people above the line, as a rule, get their knowledge of the people below from books, blue or otherwise, and hearsay. We who live below it learn to know them by living amongst them, or by coming into daily contact with them; and thus, if the aforesaid alternative were forced upon us, we should be obliged to decide as we have said. We should so decide, though, with sorrow; for the House would be very seriously damaged in many ways if we had none of the aristocracy of the land therein.

AN ARISTOCRAT.

We have been led to these remarks by a debate which we had in the House, on Friday night, last week, upon adulteration and false weights and measures. Lord Eustace Cecil, brother of the Marquis of Salisbury, called the attention of the House to these subjects, and made a motion thereon. Lord Eustace Cecil is one of the *connumerati*—men born to consume, and not to produce. But he is not a mere idle, listless consumer, nor, indeed, a mere active, energetic seeker after his own pleasures. There are men in the upper ranks who, though they produce nothing, do nevertheless work uncommonly hard—much harder, in pursuit of mere pleasure at times, than many workers for their daily bread. Sir Watkin Wynne, for example: he will, on Tuesday, be out with the hounds in Denbighshire, 200 miles from London; travel up to town during the night; vote on Wednesday in a division, say at about five o'clock p.m.; travel home during the night, and be at the meet again on Thursday; and think nothing of the feat. But Lord Eustace is not one of these hard-working pleasure-seekers. Though not a producer of wealth, in the scientific meaning of the term, he works for the well-being of his fellow-men, and that is wealth. Moreover, he has travelled, and given us his "Impressions;" and, though we never read the book, we will decide provisionally that there is something in it worth knowing; and, in that case, he has produced a sort of wealth. On Tuesday night he took up, as we have said, the subject of adulterations, and false weights, scales, and measures, and discoursed thereon for three-quarters of an hour. The noble Lord is not a fluent speaker, nor forcible. He talks with care, propriety, correctness, and ease; but he lacks energy. He carries easiness of manner to excess, giving his hearers the idea that, though he has thought it his duty to bring the matter in hand before the House, he really cares very little about it—quite forgetful of the old maxim, which a public speaker should never forget, "If you wish to move your hearers, you must show them that you are moved." Perhaps there was on this particular occasion something in the subject which made his Lordship so languid and cold. For some inscrutable reason, he had determined to call the attention of the House to adulterations, false scales, &c.; and, with commendable diligence, he, by reading bluebooks and newspaper reports, coached himself up for his task; but he could not speak from experience. High-class tradesmen whom his Lordship deals with don't knowingly sell adulterated articles, nor use false weights and measures; no *oculus indicus* poisons the pale ale which finds its way to his table. His wines are the purest that money can buy, and the cayenne in his cruet is free from red lead. Neither could he speak of his own knowledge on any of these matters. It was hardly, therefore, to be expected that his Lordship would speak with much fervour, even if fervour were natural to him, which it is not. Nevertheless, his Lordship made out a strong case; and if his hearers had been old ladies, they would no doubt have gone home very much alarmed. Indeed, we are not sure that his Lordship did not raise an uneasy feeling in the minds of many of the members who knew no more about the subject than he did himself.

A MANUFACTURER.

But if this were so, they must have been greatly relieved by the very excellent speech of Mr. Pochin. Mr. Pochin is a new member. He was elected for the borough of Stafford in December last, and this was his maiden speech. Mr. Pochin is in the House a conspicuous figure, and more people know his name, probably, than that of any other new member in the House, simply because Mr. Pochin wears his hair longer than other people. It is the almost universal fashion now to have the hair at the back of the head cut as close as the hair of a convict. Not many years ago all men wore their hair long behind and shaved the face; now it is the fashion to wear bushy beards and moustaches, and to crop closely the hair behind. Mr. Pochin adheres to the old custom. Mr. Muntz used to be conspicuous on account of his beard; now, a clean-shaven face is getting to be exceptional, and long hair behind strange. But enough of Mr. Pochin's outward appearance. Dod tells us that Mr. Pochin is largely concerned in the iron and coal trades; but, from other sources, we have learned that he has studied chemistry, and that he is, or was, a manufacturing chemist in a large way of business. Though he represents Stafford, he is a Lancashire man. Of this there can be no doubt. His speech "bewrayeth" him. But Dod tells us that he is Alderman of Salford, and lives at Broughton Old Hall, Manchester. "That's broad Lancashire," said a gentleman. "Yes," replied another; "but listen, for he knows what he is talking about." In this remark two things are noticeable. The *but* indicated a feeling, still existing in high circles, and once common, especially in the House of Commons, that a man who spoke in a provincial dialect was scarcely worth listening to. And secondly, "He knows what he is talking about," indicating that a good many people talk and do not know—i.e., do not understand—what they talk about; which is true to a lamentable extent even in the House of Commons to this day. Lord Eustace Cecil, though he had got up his speech with commendable industry from all sources available to him, did not understand his subject; whereas Mr. Pochin did understand his subject. My Lord spoke from a brief. But the hon. member for Stafford had no need to coach himself up; he wanted no brief, or even notes—he was talking about his own business. Solomon says, "He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him out." And it was so here. Lord Eustace certainly made a case; but the plain Lancashire man very soon searched his Lordship out. "Ne sutor ultra crepidam,"—let not the cobbler go beyond his last.

MR. BRIGHT IN OFFICE.

Mr. Bright now regularly sits on the Treasury bench. It seemed at first very strange to see him there; his presence in that quarter was to us a solecism. It jarred upon us like a discord in a concert; but we are getting over it. He, we suspected, was pitched too high for the rest of the performers; and as one singer in a choir pitched too high, though his may be the right key, has little chance of levelling up his companions to his note, but must almost inevitably be dragged down to them, so we feared that Mr. Bright would be dragged down, or, what would be more likely, leave the choir. But we have now come to believe that neither of these misfortunes will happen; but that the President of the Board of Trade, so far from sinking, will give a new tone to the Treasury Bench. At present Mr. Bright has done but little more than answer the questions; but in what a novel style he has answered them! The custom was—we do not say it is now—in answering questions to use language to conceal rather than reveal the truth. If certain Ministers did not use the *suggestio falsi*, they certainly had recourse to the *suppressio veri*, which is quite as bad—and in some cases worse. Answering questions was a great art, art of the Jesuitical kind. The question was how to reveal as little as possible, and at the same time to make the questioner believe that all that he wanted was disclosed. Lord Palmerston, by long practice and experience, had become an adept in this questionable art. But with all his practice and experience he never fully attained to the art of concealing art. When the noble Lord wished to deceive a questioner he could do it; but through the thin disguise of his candour and frankness, and apparent plainness of statement, the questioner had an uneasy feeling that he had not got at the real truth. Once, as a questioner was coming out of the House after having received a somewhat long but seemingly frank and honest answer, the whip said, "Well, I hope you are satisfied? It was a good answer." "Yes," the questioner replied, "but it had one fault." "What was that?" "I believe it was all a lie." We have said, "the custom was," but it is entirely abolished. It appeared to many in the House that Mr. Cardwell's reply to Mr. White on the subject of the Horse Guards and the War Office, which reply had evidently been drawn up with great care, was not quite so frank and honest as at first sight it appeared to be. The artistic skill with which the answer was framed alone made it "suspect." It requires no art to tell a plain truth. Mr. Bright has taken into office all the characteristic simplicity of the religious body to which he belongs; and the world sees for the first time a Minister of the Crown whose *yea* is *yea*, and his *nay*—*ay*. And this is not the least wonder in this wonder-teeming time. What if this practice should spread through every department of the State, even into diplomacy? One shudders to think what a host of diplomatic secretaries and attachés would find their occupation gone if that should come to pass.

TRUTH AT THE ADMIRALTY AT LAST.

It appears to us that Mr. Childers, our First Lord, has resolved to adopt this practice, and means, whenever he stands up in the House to explain his Admiralty Estimates, to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. No official statement made in our time was so clear, so plain, so obviously trustful, as that which Mr. Childers made on Monday. This, too, is a novelty in modern times. Who does not remember the long, wearisome, tortuous, involved, perplexed, and perplexing statements of Sir Charles Wood; the apparently candid, frank, ingenuous, and artless, but really utterly untrustworthy, speeches of Lord Clarence Paget? When Sir Charles sat down, few who had listened to him knew much more than they knew before he rose. Lord Clarence spoke much more intelligibly. There was no want of perspicacity in his sentences, and to simple people the candour of his "I must allow," "I will here candidly confess," was charming. But, alas! amongst the experienced who listened to him there always arose a suspicion that, instead of revealing the real truth, he was artfully, though seemingly without art, weaving a web to hide from them what they had a right to know. But here is a high official at last who, instead of wearing a veil, means, as it seems to us, to tear down that which has long hung over his department, and show us all its secrets; put it, indeed, in a glass house, that we may all look at it, and point out to us not only what is right, but also the imperfections of its mechanism too. This is a great change, but not unaccountable. First Lords and Secretaries of the Admiralty used to consider it their duty when they stood at the table to defend everything. Mr. Childers comes with a new mission. He means to defend nothing that is indefensible, and to mend everything, as far as he can, which he thinks requires mending; and what is too bad to be mended he will ruthlessly abolish. In short, we have in office at last, as it would appear, a real radical reformer; that is, a reformer who will lay his axe to the root (*radix*, a root; hence radical) of the evil which he discovers. This was the impression which we got whilst Mr. Childers was delivering his very able speech. What then? Is truth at last to govern in all departments of the State, dethroning the falsity which for ages has reigned there? If so, the fabled *Astræa*, who left the world because it was so wicked, may come back again.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY introduced a bill for the improvement of Church discipline in ecclesiastical courts, and, considering the intricacies surrounding the question, recommended a reference of the bill to a Select Committee.

The Earl of ALBEMARLE gave notice of his intention to move for a Select Committee to inquire as to the mode in which the law is administered in petty sessions divisions, especially those laws which place the trial of poachers exclusively in the hands of magistrates having property in land. The noble Lord also intends to ask how many clergymen hold commissions of the peace.

The Earl of KIMBERLEY moved the second reading of the Habitual Criminals Bill. Lord Portman having expressed a hope that the bill would be very carefully examined in Committee, a short discussion followed, in the course of which various suggestions were made with reference to the details of the measure, the principle being generally assented to. In the end the bill was read the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NORWICH ELECTION.

Sir R. P. COLLIER gave notice of a motion for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the corrupt practices at Norwich during the election.

FALSE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Lord E. CEIL called the attention of the House to the defective state of the law as regards the punishment of persons using false weights and measures and adulterating food, and moved that the Government be requested to take the evil into their consideration, and to provide some more effectual remedy for it than was to be hoped for from the tardy operations of the Commission.

Mr. BRIGHT thought people were sometimes led to unintentional exaggeration in their estimate of the evils of adulteration, and believed the House would do well to wait for the report of the Commission, which would shortly be issued.

The motion was afterwards withdrawn.

ELECTION PETITIONS.

Mr. V. HARCOURT, commenting upon the absence of any authentic record of the judgments delivered by the Judges appointed to try election petitions, urged that, as these judgments declared the law, without appeal, they ought to be laid before the House without delay, so that they might ascertain what were the defects in the law, and proceed to amend them. He felt satisfied from the decisions that had been delivered, especially in reference to treating, that if a general election were to take place immediately, it would be unprecedentedly corrupt. In conclusion, he expressed his fear that unless purity of election were defended by a public prosecutor, nothing whatever would be accomplished in that direction.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL stated that as soon as the inquiries of the Judges had been completed their judgments would be laid upon the table. He granted that there ought to be an amendment of the law, and particularly, as had been suggested, on the subject of treating. With regard to the appointment of a public prosecutor, he could not hold out any ex-

pectation of such a proposal being made at present; but he had long been in favour of the creation of an office of the sort, and he hoped the time was not far off when we should no longer be without so useful an institution.

MONDAY, MARCH 8.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

Earl RUSSELL called the attention of their Lordships to the large sums voted by Parliament for the purposes of education, and entered at great length into the origin and progress of such grants, and into the present system of education. The noble Earl contended that the system had not been successful, and that therefore it was the duty of Government and Parliament to establish a good general system of education in England and Wales.

Earl DE GREY expressed the regret of the Government that the pressure of other matters rendered it impossible for them to deal with the question in the present Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE TREASURY BOARD.

Mr. S. BOOTH directed attention to the recent changes in the constitution of the Board of Treasury by the creation of a third Lord and the appointment of the Marquis of Lansdowne as a third Lord.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER admitted that the changes referred to were considerable; but there was no limit to the prerogative of her Majesty, and there had been no violation of any rule in creating a third Lord. The sole object had been to promote the efficiency of the department and expedite public business.

Mr. W. HUNT could not accept the explanation as satisfactory. For his part he did not see what duties the third Lord had to perform which might not as well be discharged by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Although the appointment might be strictly legal, he regarded it as being rather against the spirit of the Constitution that a new office of such importance should have been created by a mere stroke of the pen, as it were, without any communication with the House of Commons upon the necessity for the change.

Mr. CARDWELL defended the appointment of an additional Lord, and frankly acknowledged that the office had been created and a military man appointed to it for the purpose of assisting him in the many and complicated functions which he had to discharge as Minister for War.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and Mr. CHILDERS explained the Navy Estimates; and first he stated that their total was £9,996,000—viz., £8,164,000 effective services, £1,515,000 non-effective, and £316,000 transport services, which is a reduction of £1,027,000 on last year, and £1,300,000 from the year 1867-8. These reductions were divided generally over all the votes, and after the accounts had been corrected there would be a reduction of £199,000 for wages, £73,000 victualling departments, £127,000 dockyards, £57,000 stores, £331,000 contracts, and £21,000 transports. Having premised this, Mr. Childers divided his statement under three main heads—the changes in the Admiralty establishments, the policy of the Government in regard to our fleets, and the shipbuilding programme. Under the first head, after a lengthy review of past controversies on the composition of the Admiralty, from which he drew a conclusion decidedly adverse to the abolition of the Board and the substitution of a Secretary of State, he explained the changes he had made—the chief of them being seating the Controller at the Board and giving him the control of the matériel of the Navy, putting the personnel in the charge of one of the Junior Lords, and giving the Secretary control of the finances. He stated, too, that he had succeeded in concentrating all the administrative departments of the Admiralty about Whitehall, and the general result of his changes was a saving of £20,000 a year, with no injustice to any single individual. About £900,000 a year would be saved in the superintendence of the dockyards, though there was an increase of £24,000 for wages, and there would be a considerable saving in petty charges for maintenance, &c., while the great works at Chatham, Portsmouth, and Malta would be pushed on with increased vigour. Inquiries were also going on in the victualling and hospital departments, which he anticipated would lead to considerable reductions. Under the second head—the mode of dealing with the fleet—Mr. Childers stated that he had reduced the South American, Pacific, China, Indian, and African squadrons from eighty ships and 11,000 men to sixty-four ships and 8500 men. It had been arranged that the Indian Government should pay about £70,000 a year towards the expenses of the vessels kept in the Indian waters; and it was proposed almost immediately to send a flying squadron of some of our finest vessels to visit the foreign stations, and to dispatch a few of the coastguard vessels on a cruise. The reduction of men and boys effected in the Estimates was from 66,770 to 63,000, to the credit of which, however, the late Board of Admiralty was chiefly entitled. Mr. Childers discussed next, very minutely, the condition of the lists of officers, which he pronounced, with general approval, to be very unsatisfactory; not only costly to the country, but productive of inefficiency; and he announced that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would shortly bring in a bill for commuting the half-pay of a certain number of officers, and thus the Admiralty would be able to re-cast the lists according to the present requirements of the service. Passing to the last head—the shipbuilding programme—after showing that at the end of the financial year pretty nearly all the ships now in hand would be completed, he announced that two turret-ships, which would be the most powerful afloat, would be laid down at once—one at Pembroke and one at Chatham. They would be 4400 tons, double screws, 12½-knots speed, plated with 12-in. and 14-in. armour, carrying four 25-ton guns, and costing £285,000 each. Another turret-ramp—an improved Hotspur—and two or three vessels of the Stanch class completed the shipbuilding programme of the year; and when it was carried out we should have forty-seven armoured vessels afloat, with 398 guns; and these, with sixty-six efficient unarmoured ships and a large number of vessels of the old type, Mr. Childers maintained (without going into close comparisons) would give us a navy stronger than that of any other nation.

Mr. CORRY vindicated at some length the policy of the late Board, which, he showed, before it went out, had prepared for a reduction of £668,000 on last year's Estimates, leaving only £265,000 to Mr. Childers's credit. Criticising the programme of the year, he expressed serious doubts whether the reductions in the Admiralty establishments were wise, and strongly objected to the laying down of two new turret-ships until the Captain and Monarch had been tried at sea.

A general approbation of the main features of the Estimates was expressed by Mr. GOURLEY, Colonel SYKES, Sir C. WINGFIELD, Mr. BROGDEN, and Mr. GRAVES; and the first three votes—63,300 men and boys, £2,762,353 wages, and £1,172,368 victuals and clothing for the seamen and marines—were agreed to.

GOVERNMENT OF THE METROPOLIS.

Mr. BUXTON brought in two bills to provide for the establishment of municipal corporations in the metropolis, and also of a central corporation.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MISSIONARIES.

The Duke of SOMERSET, in directing attention to the correspondence with respect to missionaries in China, questioned our right to send missionaries into the interior, and then employ a fleet for their protection when they met with the treatment that they would experience if they preached unpopular doctrines in Birmingham under parallel circumstances. The system pursued was nothing else than propagating Christianity by means of gun-boats, and was deserving of the utmost reprobation.

The Earl of CLARENDON avowed that the state of things in China was by no means satisfactory. Whilst recognising the zeal of the missionaries, he had no doubt that they required to be protected against themselves. The whole Chinese population were averse to them, and our naval force was constantly being called upon, not to enforce treaty rights, but for the protection of two or three rash men who would not foresee the consequences of their own conduct. Instructions had been sent out to the Consuls and officers in China to abstain from acts of hostility, and to withdraw all persons in danger instead of making reprisals at their own discretion; and the London Missionary Society had been urged to communicate with the officials in China before locating their missionaries, and warned that the Government could not protect them at the risk of committing acts of war.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

REAL PROPERTY OF INTESATES.

Mr. LOCKE KING, in asking permission to introduce a measure for better settling the real estates of intestates, pointed out the anomalies in the existing law relating to the descent of freehold property, and explained that the object he had in view was to assimilate the law to that which regulated the devolution of personal property where no will had been made. He had no wish, nor would his proposal have that effect, to introduce the French law of compulsory division of estates into this country.

Mr. GLADSTONE, after a short debate, assented to the introduction of the bill, and, in answer to the appeals addressed to the Government to give its opinion on the subject, said he did not demur to Mr. King's proposition; but he should like to see the provisions of the bill, and promised to give them careful consideration, for he owned that the existing law was not in a satisfactory state.

Mr. HENLEY suggested that the title of the bill ought to be changed into "A Bill for the Confiscation of all Forty-Shilling Cottage Freeholds," for if it ever passed into a law it would "snuff out" every forty-shilling cottage freeholder.

Ultimately leave was given to bring in the bill.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

Mr. VERNON HARCOURT moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the law affecting the registration of persons entitled to vote in the election of members of Parliament for English and Welsh boroughs, and to report whether any and what amendments are required therein. To show the necessity for instituting an inquiry, the hon. member enumerated the defects connected with the present system of registration, and especially dwelt upon the imperfect and inaccurate basis, the overseers' lists, upon which

the register was prepared. He contended that a registrar ought to be appointed in every borough, whose duty it should be to prepare the lists of voters, as was the case in Scotland, where the system was found to work remarkably well.

After some discussion, the motion for a Committee was agreed to.

IRISH AND SCOTCH REPRESENTATIVE PEERS.

Mr. STAPLETON asked leave to bring in a bill to alter the mode of electing representative peers in Scotland and Ireland, and to enable the Crown to summon such Scotch and Irish peers as may not be representative peers to sit in Parliament for life.

Mr. GLADSTONE acknowledged that the system of electing both the Scotch and Irish peers was unsatisfactory, and required consideration; but he recommended that the mover should be content with the introduction of his bill, and not attempt to proceed to a further stage for the present.

Mr. STAPLETON expressed his willingness to act upon this advice, and the motion was agreed to.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) BILL.

Lord R. MONTAGU moved the second reading of this bill, which was opposed by Mr. HEADLAM. After a long debate, the bill was thrown out, on a division, by 253 votes to 197, or a majority of 56.

THE UNIVERSITY TESTS BILL.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL, in proposing that the University Tests Bill be read the second time, observed that the question at issue had now become a very "old story;" and it was a topic so generally used in election addresses during the autumn that it was fair to presume the leading arguments in favour of and against it were familiar to all. He trusted that the Opposition would accept the measure as an inevitable one, and not fly the flag of "No surrender"—a flag which was certain to be torn down; nor raise the cry of "Non possumus"—a cry from which no good had ever yet come, or ever would come.

Mr. MOWBRAY then moved an amendment that the bill be read the second time that day six months. The bill was objectionable in principle; and as to its being "inevitable," he held that, if he believed in great principles, and that the maintenance of the Church and the Universities was consistent with those principles, it was his duty to assert them. If any reasonable compromise would be accepted, the opponents of the bill were ready to come to a settlement; but the fact was that every offer of the sort had been rejected, and the only course now open to him, therefore, was to say "No" to the measure.

It being now twenty-five minutes to six o'clock, on the motion of Sir R. PALMER the debate was adjourned until next evening, upon the understanding that it would not be resumed after half-past ten o'clock.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA BILL.

The Duke of ARGYLL, in moving the second reading of this bill, said it would remedy a blunder in the Act of 1861, and affirm that the Government of India should have jurisdiction and authority over all native subjects of the Queen in the British dominions. There appeared to have arisen a great complication of laws in India, and it was now proposed to restore to the Governor-General in his Executive Council the power of making certain regulations which would have the force of law. There was a new matter of procedure in council provided for, the dissent of members not being required to be recorded unless specially desired. It would set free the hands of the Government of India—without restriction—to select for the covenanted Civil Service the natives of the country, without first having undergone a competitive examination at home. He thought it desirable that for certain appointments in the covenanted Civil Service natives should be chosen who have some personal knowledge of the English system, but he would not confine it to them.

Lord LYNDEN approved of the measure, but pointed out several omissions in the bill, which he thought had been made in it. He could not see why the examinations could not be as well conducted in India as here, and he suggested that some improvement should be made in the mode of keeping the Indian accounts, so as to simplify them and render them more intelligible.

The Marquis of SALISBURY considered that there were several omissions in the bill, which he pointed out, and thought that more new blood ought to be infused into the Government of India. The generality of their knew more about India as it was than as it is, and there ought to be some means adopted of creating a more rapid progress by shortening the term of service. He suggested the omission of one of the clauses which threw responsibility on the Governor-General of India, and urged that the Minister of the Crown should have that responsibility thrown upon him.

After some discussion, in which Lord Houghton, Lord Hardinge, and the Duke of Somerset took part,

The Duke of Argyll replied, and the bill was read the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SUPPLY.

On the motion for going into Supply.

Mr. WHITE moved that, in order to promote greater economy and efficiency, the departments of the Horse Guards and the War Office should be placed under the control of one responsible Minister. Having entered into details to prove the inconveniences of divided and the advantages of single responsibility, the hon. member concluded with his motion.

Mr. FAWCETT seconded the motion.

Mr. CARDWELL hoped the hon. member would not press the motion just now. He would simply remark that, desirable as might be reform in this direction, it would be unwise, he thought, to take the discipline of the Army from an experienced officer and to place it entirely under the control of the Minister for War.

MILITARY ESTIMATES.

The House then went into Committee of Supply on the Military Estimates.

Mr. CARDWELL would be as brief as possible in making his statement. The Estimates this year were £14,200,000, which was £1,280,000 less than the Estimates of last year. There were some deductions, which would reduce the saving to a net sum of about £1,190,000. These reductions had arisen from redistribution of troops in the colonies, and in the Control Department, for which latter the late Government had to be credited to a certain extent. The number of troops at home would be 92,000 men. Troops would be in battalions of 550, exhibiting a reduction, but not any inefficiency. The colonial force would be 32,000, showing a reduction of 15,000 men. The reduction in the colonial troops had been based on the view of increasing self-reliance on the colonies, and on the altered feeling of the country with respect to these dependencies. The true way of defending our colonies was not to keep troops there in time of peace, but to let it be known that war with them was war with England. Having entered into details explanatory of the changes in different dependencies and small reductions in the artillery, Mr. Cardwell proceeded to state certain proposals connected with the improvement of the Army. Then, with respect to the distribution of the Army—92,000 at home and 96,000 in the colonies. This arrangement would enable the soldier to pass half his time at home instead of the number of years the old system required he should pass abroad. With respect to the reserve, that was a matter which had engaged his attention deeply. The militia was the body most relied upon to recruit the Army. The estimate for this body was nearly the same as that of last year. Government had no idea of altering the constitution of the militia or the appointment of officers; but the Government thought there ought to be such a relation between the militia and the Army as would, in case of being assailed by an enemy, ensure a greater amount of service and co-operation. The intention was to improve the position of the officers, and £20,000 had been set apart for that object, and also for brigading the militia and troops more frequently. As to calling out the yeomanry, he would remark that Government did not wish to discourage any branch of the reserve, as this would be a matter for future consideration. It would be necessary to require a more efficient organisation of the volunteers, and some rules would be laid down for that purpose. The allowances already exceeded half a million; and if Government incurred further charges, it must be clearly on the ground that increased efficiency was secured, such efficiency as would enable this branch of the strength of the country to take its place by the side of the standing army. The total force—regulars, militia, and volunteers—amounted to 381,821 (say 400,000) available for home service and home defence. But we ought not to be content with this figure when we looked at the immense armies kept up by four leading foreign Powers. The question of the munitions of war was an important one, and he believed he might say, whether as regarded great guns or small arms, we were superior to any other military nation. The strengths of gunpowder, and also gun-cotton, had been tested, and the most efficient adopted. The right hon. gentleman concluded a statement which took upwards of two hours in delivery by assuring the House that Government would not trespass on its liberality, but use all due economy in every detail and department.

After some discussion, the usual vote was taken, and the House resumed. The Marine Mutiny Bill was read the second time.

THE ATTENTION OF THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY having been called to the hardship to which individual officers would be subjected in the event of a sudden reduction in the number of inspecting commanders of the Coastguard being decided on, he has, very considerably, resolved that no immediate dismissals shall take place, but officers shall be allowed to serve the time for which they were originally appointed, but at the expiration of which no successors will be nominated.

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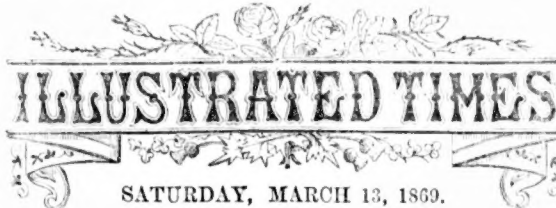
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BEERSHOPS.

It is interesting to note the frequency with which we are from time to time confronted by the old questions between Liberalism, or freedom of personal conduct and complete self-government (for that is the true philosophical as well as etymological meaning of the word), and its opposite. Upon the beershop question it arises again, and in a very puzzling manner, too; so as, in fact, to heap up difficulties of expediency a hundredfold in addition to difficulties of principle. In reply to the last of the deputations which have waited upon the Government in reference to this subject, Mr. Bruce, on Tuesday, said:—

I have received three deputations upon the same subject—all of importance. The first suggested the transfer of the power of licensing to the magistrates; the second proposed a suspensory bill, giving only temporary powers to the magistrates; but the present deputation suggests no plan of their own, but, as I gather, it is their opinion that almost anything would be better than the present system (hear, hear), and that they indorse the opinion of the first deputation, that the power should ultimately be vested in the magistrates.

It is sufficiently obvious, from the tone adopted by Mr. Gladstone in replying to a previous deputation, that he not only feels what Mr. Bruce repeated and what everybody can discover for himself—namely, that the Government already have their hands quite full for the Session, and that the question of the liquor traffic cannot be dealt with piecemeal, but feels, besides, that fundamental principles of finance and of civil freedom are concerned in the general question. It is the evident policy of the extreme "temperance," or total abstinence, side to "divide and conquer"—that is, to do their work by little bits: introducing the thin end of the wedge first, and by degrees increasing the leverage. But Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Lowe are evidently too wide awake to commit themselves; and nothing could be more guarded, we may say more cold, than the former's reply to the people who waited upon him in the matter.

It will not be doubted that Mr. Gladstone has as intense a horror of drunkenness as any member of the total-abstinence party. It will not be denied that he has the welfare of the poor at heart, and that he would be glad to see the habit of intoxication rooted out of the nation. But, then, he distinguishes. Your ordinary philanthropist or amateur legislator, the moment he sees a social evil existing, invariably recurs to one idea, which may be termed a fine lady's idea. When a fine lady, not over-weighted with brains and culture, hears of anything she thinks wrong—we will suppose it is baptism by immersion or the sale of "stamped" medicines—she instantly and innocently asks, "Why doesn't Government put a stop to it?" She has no notion that there are some things that even Government is unable to do; that there are some remedies which are worse than the disease; and that if laws are made which unjustly curtail personal liberty, the usual result is some system of dangerous evasion. Yet this is the lesson which experience abundantly teaches.

The beershop system may be said to have been paternal in its inspiration. It was alleged, for one thing, that beer was not so intoxicating, or so injurious, or so expensive as spirits; and that to give the poor abundant opportunities of buying it was likely to diminish the trade in stimulants of another kind. It is now found that the system, like other paternal schemes in matters of public policy, has come to grief. The beerhouses not only harbour sots; they are much frequented by thieves. They are very often in the hands of men whose spirit licenses have been taken away from them for bad conduct, and who repeat in their beershops, only with more impunity, the practices they were guilty of when they were permitted to keep public-houses where wine and spirits were sold as well as beer. All this, with the fact of the almost ludicrous increase in number of these shops, is held to make out a case for either abolishing the mere beer license altogether or handing the licensing power over to the magistrates.

It may, perhaps, be interesting to those who do not know the opinions of the greatest of living political economists, and one of the most thoughtful of sociologists, to be told what Mr. Mill has written upon this subject. It may be summed up as follows:—Indirect taxation should by preference fall upon articles which can best be spared. *A fortiori*, it should fall upon those around the sale of which mischiefs are admitted, in practice, to be apt to gather. Hence the taxation of beer and spirits is more than admissible, supposing the State to need the revenue which that is capable of yielding. Then, all places of public resort, and among the rest places where beer and spirits are sold, require the restraint of police supervision. For consumption on the spot, the sale of intoxicating drinks should be confined to persons of proved respectability. As to hours of

opening and closing, such regulations may justifiably be made as are necessary for the purposes of police surveillance (this limitation demands notice in connection with what Mr. Mill immediately afterwards says). If breaches of the peace repeatedly take place at any licensed house, or if offences against the law are habitually concocted there, the license should be withdrawn. Now, it will be observed that nothing has been said here about drunkenness, and that the right of the State to excise intoxicating drinks is founded simply upon its being under the necessity of its excising something. And then Mr. Mill adds, after what we have just presented in an abbreviated form:—"Any further restriction I do not conceive to be in principle justifiable. The limitation in number, for instance, of beer and spirit houses for the express purpose of rendering them more difficult of access and diminishing the occasions of temptation," Mr. Mill holds to be utterly unjustifiable, partly because it may inconvenience some people for the sake of others, but still more because it assumes that "the labouring classes need to be treated as children or savages, a principle on which they are not professedly governed in any free country." There is at least one person in the Cabinet, Mr. Lowe, who would assent to these propositions, and it is probable that Mr. Gladstone would too. The study of finance is, indirectly, the study of the principles of personal freedom; and it is just as well to try and make certain theorists understand that such principles are not yet quite extinct in this country. It is probable that the system of licensing beershops will be assimilated to that of the licensing of wine and spirit houses, and everybody will approve of this change except those who may be interested in making beershops nests of scoundrelism; but there are as yet no signs that the Government of this country is prepared to recur to the principles on which it was customary, in the days of the Plantagenets, to prescribe not only what people were to wear, but the quantity of food they were to take.

THE "NEW FEATURE IN LIFE ASSURANCE."—Since the issue of our last week's Number, and in consequence of the paragraph we then inserted on this subject, we have received a number of papers, including prospectuses, reports, &c., from which we learn that the company referred to as having adopted a new feature in the conduct of its business is the "British Imperial Insurance Corporation (Limited) for Effecting Banking, Life, and Self Insurance Policies on Government Securities," which has its chief London office at 20, Cockspur-street, Charing-cross, S.W. We mention these facts for the information of those whom they may concern.

SUPERVISION OF TICKET-OF-LEAVE HOLDERS.—A copy of a memorandum, signed by Colonel Henderson, and describing the present system of police supervision of license-holding criminals, was issued on Tuesday for the information of Parliament. Colonel Henderson states that if the address given by the convict when he periodically reports himself is ascertained to be correct no further supervision is kept over him by the police, and his employers are never informed that they are employing a license-holder. In the event of the passing of Lord Kimberley's bill, the supervision of convicts who place themselves in charge of the Prisoners' Aid Society will be carried on by the police, in conjunction with the officers of the society; and it can be so arranged, Colonel Henderson says, as to avoid any undue interference with the men. Identification would at the same time, in the opinion of the Commissioner, be rendered more easy than at present by the proposed central registration.

PRINTERS' PENSION SOCIETY.—The annual general meeting of the Printers' Pension Corporation took place on Monday, at the London Tavern—Mr. W. Rivington in the chair. The report, which was adopted, stated that there were eighty-one pensioners (twenty-six males and fifty-five females) on the fund. The amount paid to pensioners during the past year had been £1023, being nearly £100 above the average sum for the last five years. During the past year the sum of £110 had been received as a subscription from Mr. Mull, of the *Times of India*. A bequest of £2000 had also been left by Mr. F. Craven (Virtue and Co.), subject to a life interest, for the foundation of a Craven pension. The last annual festival, presided over by Dean Stanley, had produced the sum of £537. The late Mr. Henry Wright, of Kingston-on-Hull, had left a legacy of £2032 to the Almshouse Fund. Resolutions were adopted, sanctioning the handing over of the funds and management of the Almshouse Society and the Orphan Asylum respectively to the "Printers' Pension, Almshouse, and Orphan Asylum Corporation," and incorporating them with that body.

A FIFTH ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.—Another Atlantic Telegraph Company has been formed in New York, with the object of laying two lengths of cable between the American and European continents. The projectors of this company have received from the House of Representatives an Act of Incorporation, under the title of the Transatlantic Telegraph Company, for the purpose of constructing, laying, and working one or more submarine cables from the United States to the French coast, via the Western Islands. The new company's route differs entirely from the present Atlantic lines, as, starting from the Plymouth coast, off Massachusetts, the first length of cables stretches to one of the Western Islands, a distance of 1500 miles, and the remainder of the communication is maintained by a second section of cables, of 500 miles long, to the French coast. Each cable will be 2000 miles long, and 400 miles shorter than the cables now working. The Transatlantic Company intend using an American invention, very novel, and of a quite recent date, called the "Double Transmitter," by the application of which, it is said, two separate currents of electricity can occupy the cable at the same time and travel in opposite directions.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY BILL.—The bill brought into the House of Commons to amend the law with respect to the property of married women is indorsed by Mr. Russell Gurney, Mr. Headlam, and Mr. Jacob Bright. It provides that every woman who marries after this Act has come into operation shall, notwithstanding her coverture, have and hold all real and personal property, whether belonging to her before marriage or acquired by her in any way after marriage, free from the debts and obligations of her husband, and from his control or disposition, in all respects as if she had continued unmarried. Also that every woman married before this Act has come into operation shall, notwithstanding her coverture, have and hold all the real and personal estate, her title to which shall accrue after this Act shall have come into operation, free from the debts and obligations of her husband, and from his control or disposition, in all respects as if she had continued unmarried; but nothing contained in the Act shall exempt any such property from the operation of any settlement or covenant to which it would have been subject if this Act had not passed, or shall prejudice any vested rights or interest to which her husband may be entitled at the date at which the Act comes into operation. The earnings of a married woman in any trade or other occupation carried on by her separately from the trade or other occupation of her husband, it is proposed shall be deemed to be her personal estate. A husband shall not be liable for the debts of his wife contracted before marriage, and shall not be liable in damages for any wrong committed by her.

THE LAW OF PRIMOGENITURE.—On Monday night, at a meeting of the Jurisprudence Department of the Social Science Association—Sir G. Bowyer in the chair—a paper on "The Rationale of the Law of Primogeniture," by Mr. G. Harris, F.S.A., was read by Mr. Mosley. The paper dealt with the subject in an exhaustive manner, the author's conclusions being that the law of primogeniture is indefensible in the present day in the case of ordinary landed property, and that the only way to deal effectually as regards the entire abolition of the law would be not only to abolish it, but to prohibit entirely the settlement of landed property upon any one member of a family to the exclusion of the others; and to prohibit also the accumulation of property in any one family beyond a fixed amount. An interesting discussion followed, in which it was agreed to petition Parliament in favour of Mr. Locke King's bill should it be approved by the standing committee of the association. Mr. S. Morley, M.P., said he should support Mr. Locke King in the House of Commons. The law of primogeniture was an unnatural law, and they were all bound to protest against it. The nation would be better for having a larger number of proprietors of the land. He should not seek by law to interfere with the disposition of property. It was not desirable or just that a man should pauperise his younger children for the sake of his eldest. There was a good time coming, when a man could deal with his land just as he would with his money in the Bank of England or with any other description of property. The meeting then adjourned.

"LUCKY PEOPLE."

To those of our readers who last week listened to what we had to say about Property by Marriage there is no need to sermonise much on the pictorial text whose title is "Lucky People." Once let our position, which is unalterable, be considered, and, in spite of all the controversies that are going on about the struggle to live and the folly of incurring responsibilities, we shall find that the source of the truest happiness to a people, as well as the source of national greatness, is to be found in a full recognition of "the family" as the representative institution of the State, as well as of the human race. Well may they be called lucky or happy folk, who have come into that property alluded to in our last Number—the wealth that is only realised by giving, so that all which belongs to all is the property of each! You may see how a very poor dwelling is brightened by it; how a humble estate improves by properly considering how best to dispose of this kind of wealth; how even comparatively plain fare acquires a zest and flavour that could not otherwise belong to it; how daily work is glorified and life is sanctified by it. Therefore we are not the advocates of early, ill-considered marriage; we are not the advocates of late, ill-considered marriage either, for these are worse, as making the Divine law of continual approximation to the good, and so on to the best, more difficult. But in these short five-minute essays we would speak of the holy estate rather than the state of matrimony, and so point our meaning that it may be illustrated by this picture of "Lucky People."

LYDIA HOWARD, THE BABY ACTRESS.

MISS LYDIA HOWARD, the "baby actress," who is now creating quite a sensation by her performance of the part of the Dauphin in Mr. Palgrave Simpson's drama of "Marie Antoinette" at the Princess's Theatre, was born in London on March 1, 1864, and made her first public appearance, before she was two years of age, as the May Queen. Although now only five years old, she sustains hundreds of characters with marvellous power and expression, and sings charmingly. She has a very fair complexion, brilliant hazel eyes, golden hair, and expressive countenance. She is extremely healthy, never having had one day's illness, eats heartily, and sleeps soundly. She is described as being not at all thoughtful or studiously inclined; on the contrary, she is of a gay and joyous disposition—in fact, a perfect romp. Her wonderful quickness of mind has not been taken advantage of in the least; indeed, the reverse—so much so, that she cannot read a word, and has not been allowed to attempt learning. She is very kind-hearted, affectionate, and of a reverential turn of mind, and not in the least a forward, fast, or knowing child. When she goes to a theatre, she will listen with the greatest interest right through the whole of the longest play, and any part in it that, as she says, she really loves, she has at once, and will the next morning go through the whole of the part with appropriate action; but she is not, in the least, an imitator; she never performs any part as she has seen it, but gives her own rendering as regards both elocution and action. She has a great distaste for noisy plays; she likes the opening part of a pantomime, but has a positive dislike to the "comic business," that is, the harlequinade. She is especially fond of Shakespeare's "King John," "As You Like It," "Midsummer Night's Dream," and "The Tempest," and of Sheridan Knowles's "William Tell," and "The Hunchback." She has given entertainments of her own in the Assembly Rooms of Exeter, Plymouth, Torquay, St. Leonards, Hastings, Brighton, Portsmouth, and Southampton, with immense success. In the last three mentioned



MISS LYDIA HOWARD, "THE BABY ACTRESS," AS THE DAUPHIN, IN "MARIE ANTOINETTE."

towns she was so great a favourite that in Brighton she gave fifty-four entertainments; in Portsmouth, twenty-four; and in Southampton, fourteen. She has left a lasting testimonial of her feeling heart in the various towns in which she has performed. As instances, it may be mentioned that at Teignmouth she generously gave a £10 note towards the Teignmouth, Dawlish, and

Newton Infirmary; at Dawlish, she gave half the proceeds of an entertainment to the parents of a poor child who was burnt to death; at Exmouth the widows and orphans of the crew of the Julia, which had been wrecked, experienced her liberality by receiving the proceeds of an entertainment; in Brighton she gave an entertainment for the benefit of the children who were so sadly injured by the Clerkenwell explosion, sending them several pounds, while she also, at the same time, out of her own private purse, bought for them a large box full of toys, picture-books, sweets, &c. She has given entertainments at the private residences of many of the principal nobility of England. She has had the pleasure of performing under the immediate patronage and in the presence of her Royal Highness Princess Louisa, Prince Louis of Hesse, the Right Hon. Sir John Pakington, and many of the Cabinet Ministers; Lord Edward Howard, Lord Napier, the Hon. Lady Nugent, Lady Russell, the poet Longfellow, &c. Mrs. Tait (wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury), Mrs. W. E. Gladstone, and the Hon. Lady Nugent, have been so charmed with her performances that they have attended her entertainments no less than four times. Miss Lydia Howard's recital of Longfellow's "Excelsior!" and "Psalm of Life" is said to be a very finished performance.

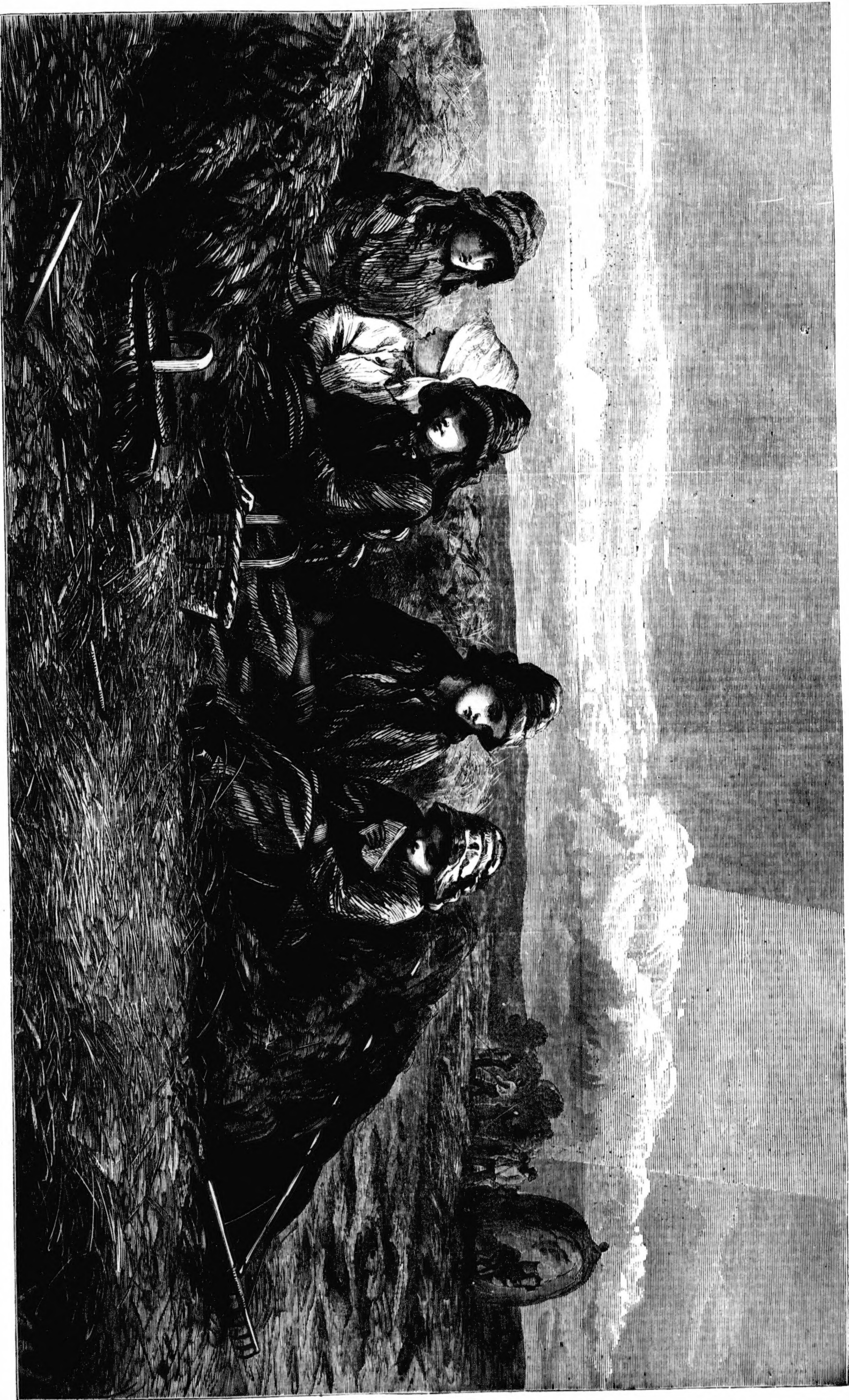
FINE ARTS.

THE DUDLEY GALLERY.

THE exhibition of water-colour drawings at the Dudley Gallery, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, is always an interesting display, and the institution is this season well furnished with pictures, which especially appeal to the popular appreciation of art. This is the fifth year in which the gallery has been opened, and it may now claim a permanent place among the associations calculated not only to develop the education of artists but to secure a wider field for the kind of works that are always most acceptable to a large body of the public. We have often advocated the production of what may be called social and domestic pictures, telling a simple story and appealing to the sentiments of homely pathos and every-day humour, as we might almost say, a relief from those highly-pitched representations that too often miss being either dramatic or historical by a too obvious effort to achieve more than can well be expressed except by the very greatest masters. In the Dudley Gallery there is no lack of those works that attract immediate attention by the simple and pleasing stories which they suggest to the visitor; and the charming bits of scenery to be found interspersed with them are all the more relished because they do not suffer from violent contrasts. "Miss Lily's First Dip" (85), by Mr. Hallyar, is perhaps the soonest recognised among the works to which we refer, if the visitor "begins at the beginning;" and the subject, though it is only a little girl in a regulation serge dress just emerging from a bathing-machine door, is capitally chosen. "On the Mussel Banks," by Mr. Arthur H. Marsh, is another study of a seaside girl, not at all like Miss Lily, but interesting in her way, in spite of her rather muddy-looking face and general grubby expression. We cannot refrain from noticing Mr. J. W. Bottomley's "Mother's Return," an admirable dog-picture, where the puppies are not made too human, as is the manner of some painters; and close by we recognise Mr. Pasquier in another of those drum-head pictures for which he is so famous, this time entitled "Off Duty." Mr. John Richardson's "Highland Pets" (137) is a genuine bit of work, and Mr. Tom Gray's "Straduarus," a little picture of an old connoisseur critically and yet reverently handling a violin, is something to covet. Commend us to Juliana Russell's scene from "The Vicar of Wakefield," where the two girls are coming down, with their mother, to breakfast, "dressed out in all their former splendour." It is



LUCKY FOLK: BABY'S FIRST STEP.



"THE MIDDAY REST."—(FROM THE PICTURE BY E. THOMAS WAITE, IN THE DODDLEY GALLERY.)

seldom that Goldsmith's immortal work, so often misrepresented by artists, has been so charmingly interpreted. A little picture with the rather startling title of "Hi!" by Mr. C. Robinson, represents a thrilling incident of common life—a little girl nearly run over by an omnibus; and we should be glad to see it published as an engraving to illustrate the greatest danger of modern town life. Mr. Pope's "Hours of Leisure"—monks recreating themselves in a garden, where one of them is discoursing melodiously on a flute, is an attractive picture; and Mr. Knight's Breton peasants returning from a fair under a heavy shower of rain is one of the best studies of the backs of retreating figures that we have ever seen. One of the homely and attractive pictures to which we have referred is Mr. H. Carter's "Game of Four Corners"—a capital rustic scene, well balanced, and evidently studied with no little care.

In contrast with this subject may be mentioned a charming picture, "The China Shelf," by Mr. A. C. H. Luxmore—one of those admirably-finished works that we long to have hanging in some favourite corner. Surely Mr. Muckley's "Middle Fellgate Academy, Cumberland," will find a purchaser in somebody to the manor born, representing as it does one of those extraordinary seats of learning which in Ireland would be called hedge-schools. It is a capital bit of real life, and well worth careful study. Mr. J. B. Bedford's "Sunrise," a little girl just awake and standing on the nursery cot, is a charming domestic picture; and "The Mouse," by Mr. W. Small, represents a household incident all the more striking because of the admirable way in which it is rendered. We must conclude a necessarily brief and very imperfect notice with the "Mid-day Rest," by Mr. R. Thorne Waite, a scene that may well recall some of the fresher memories, when a hay-field or a ramble through the long grass, with a basket in whose mysterious depths were to be discovered the ambrosial bread-and-butter, and other items of the plain luxurious banquet of hungry childhood, was the best holiday of the early summer time. It is this picture which we have chosen for our illustration.

GREEK LOAN.—The usual annual account laid before Parliament shows that this country has still to pay its £47,000 a year (interest and sinking fund) in consequence of having joined in guaranteeing the loan for assisting the establishment of the Greek monarchy, and that Greece now annually repays us £7957. The sums which the United Kingdom has had to pay as surety for Greece amount, after deducting all repayments made to us by that country, to £1,139,198.

MR. GLADSTONE'S IRISH CHURCH BILL.—At a conference of the Irish National Association, held in Dublin on Wednesday, a resolution, proposed by the Very Rev. Dr. Moran, and unanimously adopted, declared that, while disapproving of some of the details of the Irish Church Bill, the association places full confidence in the wise and just policy of Mr. Gladstone, and in the good feeling of the English people. The Bishop of Galway spoke of the Premier as the greatest of modern statesmen, whose name should descend to posterity as the greatest benefactor to religion and society.

THE ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.—The Asylum for Teaching the Blind has taken new premises in Queen-square, Bloomsbury, and on Wednesday the building was formally opened by Lord Cholmondeley and other gentlemen. The workshop is fitted up with various ingenious appliances for sewing and knitting, this branch of the establishment being exclusively designed for blind women and girls. Several clergymen and ministers took part in the dedicatory services. The society has incurred a considerable expenditure, and money is required to carry on the work.

LORD DERBY AND HIS IRISH TENANTS.—Lord Derby has addressed a letter to his Irish tenants in reference to a murder which has recently been perpetrated on his estate. He expressly disclaims any imputation upon them as principals in the crime, but asserts his belief that more than one of them is aware of facts which might fix the guilt upon the actual culprit. He appeals to those in whose breasts this secret is deposited to divulge what they know, and entreats them not to allow the good opinion of his Irish tenantry, which he has always entertained, to be lessened by their continued neglect of a positive duty.

NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—The annual meeting of the Royal National Life-Boat Institution was held on Tuesday—the Duke of Northumberland in the chair. The general summary of services for 1888 showed that the number of lives rescued by life-boats was 603, in addition to twenty-five vessels saved by them, and that 259 lives had been saved by shore-boats and other means. The amount of pecuniary rewards given for saving life during the year had been £2439 1s. 4d.; thirteen gold and silver medals and fifteen votes of thanks on vellum and parchment had also been awarded for similar services. The committee had up to the present time established a fleet of 187 life-boats on the shores of the United Kingdom. The report was adopted, and votes of thanks were cordially passed to the officers of the institution.

THE COLONIAL SOCIETY.—The inaugural dinner of the Colonial Society was given, on Wednesday night, at Willis's Rooms—Viscount Bury in the chair. The toast of "The United States" was responded to by Mr. Reverdy Johnson, who referred to an impression which appeared to prevail that the Americans were unable to extend their territory. This, however, was not generally indorsed, and many believed that the stars and stripes might yet float over some of the British colonies. God forbid, however, that her Majesty's dominions might ever be curtailed. The other speakers included Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Childers, Mr. C. Fortescue, Earl Granville, Sir Stafford Northcote, Lord Monck, Sir G. E. Cartier, and the Earl of Albemarle. The dinner was numerously attended by colonists of all classes.

THE BOROUGH OF BEVERLEY.—The political existence of the borough of Beverley is in imminent peril. Baron Martin, on Wednesday, passed a sweeping censure upon the constituency. He stated that the election had been conducted through a mass of corruption from beginning to end, and that such a place was unfit to return members to Parliament. At present, however, it sends two; and for many years has been considered one of the most complete Tory strongholds in the East Riding. It had a narrow escape from deprivation of one member by the Reform Act of 1867; for, according to the last Census, the town contained just 800 inhabitants over the 10,000 line of population. The borough register contains the names of 2672 electors, and of this body 855, or nearly a third, are freemen.

RE-ENLISTMENT OF SOLDIERS.—A Royal warrant, signed by Mr. Cardwell, has been issued, announcing that the re-engagement of soldiers will in future be limited to those cases in which men shall renew their engagement for a second term of service while actually serving. This new regulation is to take effect from April 1, or, in the case of soldiers serving out of the United Kingdom, on April 30. The warrant also announces that the following issues and payments, heretofore granted to soldiers at the time of the engagement, shall cease on the 31st inst.—viz., the free kit, or commutation in lieu thereof; the twenty days' marching money; the payment of compensation in lieu of clothing from April 1 to date of re-engagement, if such re-engagement should be made before July 1; and the payment of £2 for the provision of winter clothing in North America.

DISSENTERS' BURIALS.—Mr. Hadfield, Mr. Charles Reed, Mr. Henry Richard, and Mr. Candlish have prepared a bill to amend the law which regulates the burial of persons not belonging to the Established Church, which proposes to empower ministers of any denomination to perform the burial service when persons not belonging to the Established Church are interred in such churches or in the graveyards belonging to them. Interference with such burials is prohibited, provided due notice shall have been given and the time be suitable. Certain small graveyards intended solely for the use of the congregations of the churches belonging to them are, however, to be exempt, upon the determination of the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the publication of the exemption in the London Gazette. The Act is to extend only to England and Wales.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL.—The hundred and eleventh anniversary festival of this well-known institution was held at the London Tavern on Wednesday night, where the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor presided over a party of more than a hundred guests, including a number of ladies. This charity, when begun in 1758, was for twenty boys only; there are now in the school 401 children of both sexes, of whom sixty-seven were admitted last year. During the century and ten years more that the institution has existed 2577 children have been received, 1292 having been provided for in the building opened at Haverstock-hill in 1847. Candidates are eligible between the ages of seven and eleven; the boys are allowed to remain until they are fourteen, the girls until fifteen or sixteen. After they leave, rewards are held out for good conduct during seven years longer, whatever situations they may fill. The expenses are about £200 per week; and, as the charity depends upon voluntary contributions for more than four fifths of its annual income, the committee appeal very earnestly for new donations. All the children were marched in procession through the dining-room just before the chairman rose to propose the principal toast. In doing this the Lord Mayor noticed with satisfaction the favourable reports of the inspectors, and dwelt very strongly on the importance of religious education, remarking that when the public are assured that such an education is strongly enforced in the Orphan Working School, many persons who would not otherwise be inclined to support the institution will be induced to contribute. After the toast had been drunk, the children sang the "Huntsman's Chorus" in smart and spirited style. Mr. Sheriff Hutton proposed "The Health of the Lord Mayor." Subscriptions to the extent of nearly £800 were announced. Musical selections were given, under the direction of Mr. Winn, by Miss Fanny Holland, Miss Julia Elton, Mr. Fielding, Mr. Kerr Gedge, and Mr. Joyce Fielding.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, who was accompanied by Prince Leopold and Princesses Louise and Beatrice, arrived in town on Tuesday morning from Windsor. Her Majesty held a Drawing-room—the first of the season—at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday, at three o'clock.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has sent her usual annual subscription of £50 to the Royal National Life-Boat Institution.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS LOUISE will this day (Saturday) christen her Majesty's ship *Druid*, to be launched from Deptford Dockyard. Immediately after the launch the yard will be closed for shipbuilding purposes.

KING LOUIS II. OF BAVARIA has been for some days confined to his bed by violent neuralgic pains in the right leg, at the same spot in which he suffered last year from a severe sprain.

THE MAHARAJAH OF JEYPORE has at present 17,179 persons employed on public works, amongst which are improvements and extensions of the roads within the Jeypore Raj. His Highness has also expended 20,000 rs. on the purchase of grain for distribution to the poorer classes, and has abolished all sorts of taxation on grain within his territory in perpetuity, to enable the Mahajans to import freely without the interference of the Jeypore Durbar.

THE DUKE OF CLEVELAND will preside at the anniversary festival of the British Orphan Asylum, to be held in the first week of April.

LORD MILTON, M.P., has been obliged to withdraw temporarily from Parliamentary life in consequence of a severe attack of inflammation in the eyes, which required him to confine himself to a darkened room. His Lordship is progressing favourably towards recovery.

THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AT BOMBAY has been totally destroyed by fire.

THE BIENNIAL FESTIVAL of the Great Northern Hospital is to be held on March 17. Lord Houghton will preside.

THE HEALTH OF MR. BASS, M.P., is causing much anxiety to his friends.

MR. HENRY A. BOWEN, a well-known New York financier, has arrived in London as the agent of an important railway corporation in America.

THE BODY OF JOHN COOPER, who is supposed to have murdered his wife and her grandfather a few weeks ago at Poplar, has been found in the Thames.

SUFFICIENT FUNDS for the monument to Leigh Hunt have been subscribed, about £200 being in the hands of Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie, and Co.

SIR JOHN LAWRENCE, the late Governor-General of India, is expected to reach England in a few days.

MR. BARRY SULLIVAN has taken the Holborn Theatre, with the intention of producing the plays of Shakespeare, and others of the legitimate school, "in the best style." The theatre will be opened under the new management on or about May 1.

A NEW INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY DIFFICULTY seems to have arisen in the east of Europe. The journals of Belgrade are very angry with the Porte for resolving to carry its projected Eastern Railway through Bosnia, and thereby isolating Servia.

THE IRISH PROTESTANT DEFENCE ASSOCIATION have passed a resolution declaring an uncompromising resistance to the Church Bill. Diocesan conferences on the measure are to be summoned by the Irish Prelates in a few days.

A CONFERENCE of managers of preventive and reformatory institutions is to be held in London on April 20, 21, 22, and 23, under the auspices of the Council of the Reformatory and Refuge Union.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND ASSEMBLY have passed the address in reply to the Lieutenant-Governor's speech, affirming union with the dominion of Canada by 20 to 8. The Legislative Council approved the union by a unanimous vote.

THE PROSPECTS OF THE COTTON TRADE do not improve. The Preston manufacturers have resolved to make an immediate reduction of 10 per cent in the wages of the operatives in every department.

THE INJURIES inflicted upon the station-master at Mullingar have had a fatal termination. The unfortunate man died last Saturday. The police have not as yet succeeded in capturing the assassin.

THE EXPENSES of the defendants in the case of "Saurin v. Starr" will amount to £6000, and, if they are not successful in their appeal to the Judges in banco, they will also be liable for the costs of the plaintiff.

THE BODY OF A YOUNG MAN, named Phinn, a tailor, was found on the high road near Maidstone, about midnight on Saturday last. When first discovered there was a bundle beside him, which was missed upon the return of those who had discovered the body. Upon examination it was found that the deceased had been shot through the mouth.

SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE, Bart., is now returning from Italy to England. He was detained at Pisa a few weeks by illness, when he was attended by Dr. Canham. The worthy Baronet, who is now nearly ninety years of age, has fortunately recovered, and has passed through Nice on the journey home, and may be expected in England on or after the 15th inst.

A FATAL GUN ACCIDENT took place last Saturday during the pigeon shooting of the Gun Club at Shepherd's-bush. One of the scouts who shot through the grounds to shoot birds escaping from the inclosure while looking through the palings to ascertain whether a pigeon was killed or had escaped, stooped, leaning on his gun, which went off and killed him immediately.

AT FOWEY, CORNWALL, last Saturday, some men were excavating in a garden, when they came upon the complete remains of two full-grown persons, male and female. The skulls were perfect and all the teeth white and firmly set. The discovery has caused considerable interest in the district, but no explanation of the mystery is yet forthcoming.

MRS. ANN JOHNS, one of the witnesses who gave evidence before Mr. Justice Blackburn, stated that Mr. Serjeant Cox, in the course of his canvass at Taunton, kissed a Mrs. Bray. The Taunton magistrates last Saturday, on the information of Edwin Bray, granted a summons against Mrs. Johns, alleging that she committed wilful and corrupt perjury in relation to the kissing.

A JURY PANEL for the trial of a Catholic charged with the murder of a Protestant was quashed at the Monaghan Assizes last Saturday. It contained 250 Protestants and but forty-eight Catholics; and the prisoner's counsel objected that it was not fairly constructed, and carried his point.

THE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS have nominated a committee, which is at once representative and influential, to consider the best means of utilising the noble site of the Thames Embankment; and one special object of the committee will be to consider the expediency of erecting the Palace of Justice on this site.

THE REMAINS OF FIELD MARSHAL VISCOUNT GOUGH were removed on Tuesday from his late residence, St. Helen's, near Booterstown, and interred in the burial-ground attached to the parish church of Stillorgan, beside the body of his wife, who died in March, 1863. In accordance with the expressed wish of the deceased nobleman, the obsequies were conducted privately, notwithstanding which fact there was a numerous attendance of the friends of the family.

THE CONSERVANCY OF THE RIVER THAMES have not only issued stringent provisions as to the position of steamers and tug-boats during the approaching University boat-race, but have announced their intention to put a stop to the inconvenient practice of horse-riders occupying the tow-path, to the annoyance and injury of many spectators who line the banks of the river on the occasion of the race.

MR. BEALES has resigned the post of president of the Reform League, on the ground that the political crisis which called that body into life and operation no longer exists. The learned gentleman announced this determination at a meeting of the council on Wednesday night, and a resolution was unanimously passed recognising the value of his services and expressive of regret at his decision. Mr. Howell at the same time resigned his office as secretary of the League.

THE WAGES QUESTION has presented itself at Preston in a somewhat singular form. A number of spinners, who have enjoyed parochial relief, have been deprived of that privilege, on the ground that they could obtain work in the town. Their answer is that they can only do so by accepting reduced wages. The guardians allege that this is not a point with which they have anything to do; while the employers justify the lower rates on the ground that the depressed condition of the cotton trade prevents them from giving more.

LORD LEIGH, at the Warwick Board of Guardians, on Saturday, introduced his proposal for establishing a central union school for the permanent pauper children of that county, provided the other unions in Warwickshire concur in the scheme. His Lordship mentioned that it would be conducive to economy and efficiency in the training of children. The result of the decision will be an application to the boards of the various unions in the county asking them to co-operate.

THE FOURTH REPORT of the Select Committee on Public Petitions, which has just been issued, shows that on the first and second days of March the number of petitions presented in favour of the disendowment of the Established Church of Ireland was increased from 124 to 261, and that the total number of signatures to such petitions had risen from 49,564 to 105,114. Only two petitions, having a total of 154 signatures, were presented against disendowment.

A CURIOUS ACTION was recently brought in a Paris law court. A writer on the press claimed 3000f. (£120) damages from the publisher of the *Journal Officiel*, the new *Moniteur* of the French Government, for the inconvenience to which he had been subjected by the late delivery of the journal and the illegible manner in which it was printed, owing to the inferior quality of the paper. The Court held that the plaintiff had no case, but sentenced the defendant to pay the costs.

THE LOUNGER.

MR. SCUDAMORE last year made arrangements to purchase the interests of the electric telegraph companies of the United Kingdom, subject as to the price to the assent of Parliament, which is to be asked for this Session. The estimated sum was, I believe, at first about three millions; but this was soon found to be too low an estimate. The sum required is, it is said now, six millions, and may be much more. Whatever it may be, it will appear in the Post-Office Estimates, and will have to be discussed and voted, if the House of Commons be so minded. But it is not proposed that this large sum should come out of the taxes. Part of it will be raised by terminable annuities, and part will be borrowed of the Post-Office Savings Banks. Meanwhile the stocks of the telegraph companies have risen to a very high quotation. Some of them stand at double the price they were before the Post Office came into the market. This looks as if Mr. Scudamore had made an improvident bargain, and some eminent engineers in the telegraphic line think that with such a burden the Post Office will not be able to make the scheme self-supporting and progressive. Of course the Post-Office officials assert to the contrary. They say that whilst the telegraph will pay 4 per cent on an average, the Government will be able to borrow at about 3. I shall be curious to hear what Mr. Lowe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will say upon this subject. No doubt, concentrating all telegraphic operations under Government management will be advantageous to the public; but, as the proverb says, we may buy gold too dear. If you weight a horse too heavily it cannot win the race, however skilful the jockey may be.

Mr. Thomas Hughes has again brought in a bill to suppress, or rather to regulate, Sunday trading—I say regulate; for, curious enough, though he is horrified by Sunday trading, he really, whilst he suppresses it during part of the Sunday, legalises it in other parts. Now, if buying and selling on Sunday be irreligious, why does he not suppress it altogether? Religion no cold medium knows. If Christianity forbids trading on the Sunday, it forbids it during the whole of Sunday, from midnight till midnight. If it does not forbid it, what right has Mr. Hughes to interfere? Mr. Hughes is a very excellent man—honest, independent, philanthropic; but, like most ardent philanthropists, he exaggerates the evils of society. He thinks that society is retrograding; though it is every day really, albeit he cannot see it, improving. But, conceding that it is stationary, can he urge on its progress by a push with the constable's baton? or, failing that, by a prick of bayonets? He must be ignorant of history teaching by example if he thinks he can. A thousand times have governments adopted this method; but they have always failed. Let me point out a more excellent way. Granted that this Sunday trading is a sin. Sin proceeds mainly from two sources—ignorance and poverty. Let Mr. Hughes devote his thoughts and energy to the instruction of the people and to the bettering their condition. Yes, I know Mr. Hughes does in no slight measure do this. This I freely confess, and do most readily award him all honour due therefor; but, again, like most ardent philanthropists, he is impatient for the harvest before its time, and proposes forcing. Well, forcing on a limited scale answers in horticulture; but you cannot force human nature as you do plants; and Mr. Hughes will assuredly fail. I do not think that his bill will pass; but if it should become law, will it succeed? I believe not. There are tens of thousands of people throughout the kingdom who buy and sell on the Sunday. You cannot indict a nation, it has been said; nor can you indict a great part of a nation. It is quite possible that the East-End will resent this attempt to circumscribe its liberty, and appear suddenly in the west, wrathful and minatory as it did when Lord Robert Grosvenor, now Lord Ebury, brought in a similar bill. Does Mr. Hughes remember what happened then? Perhaps not. I do. The Upper Ten were alarmed; Scotland-Yard was perplexed. A certain Mr. Dundas advised that a 4-pounder should be trailed after the mob, things looked so frightful. This, however, found no favour. This *ultima ratio* must, though, have been resorted to had Lord Robert been obstinate; but he, seeing what was toward, rushed breathlessly to the House, and, as soon as it opened, withdrew his bill. *Verbum sap.* But supposing East-End should only adopt passive resistance—that is, refuse to obey the law—what will happen? Why, hundreds of poor people will be summoned and fined; most of them will refuse to pay, and, in default, be committed to gaol; and then we shall have the spectacle of hundreds of persons in gaol because they will not acknowledge the gospel according to Hughes. But suppose that Mr. Hughes's scheme should succeed to his heart's content, and New Cut should become silent as a church, can Mr. Hughes stop there? His object is to put down buying and selling on a Sunday. Well, is buying and selling a place in an omnibus or a cab, or a railway ticket, less sinful than buying a piece of bacon, a dried haddock, or a cabbage? Mr. Hughes may not have thought of this; but the costermongers will think of it, and have their reflections thereon. Let Mr. Hughes patiently instruct the poor and lighten their burdens, and then leave them to work out their own salvation.

The Tories used, with a sneer, to say that Mr. Bright was a clever agitator, but "No statesman, Sir; no statesman!" But what can the sneerers say now? The Irish Church Bill—so compact, so complete, so exhaustive—is, as I happen to know, in no small measure his handiwork. I venture to assert that he is not only one of our greatest orators, but one of our greatest statesmen.

I had the pleasure of being present, by invitation, at an entertainment, entitled "A Night with Burns," given by Mr. Angus Fairbairn, assisted by the Misses Bennett, before the members of the Islington and Barnsbury Literary and Scientific Institute, in their hall, in Wellington-street, Upper-street, on the evening of Thursday, the 4th inst., and was very much pleased with what I heard. Mr. Fairbairn gives an interesting outline of the poet's life, interspersed with songs and anecdotes illustrative of the circumstances under which they were composed. The talking and the singing were each of a more than ordinarily superior kind; and I shall be very glad whenever an opportunity presents itself of having such another night with Mr. Fairbairn and his coadjutors.

The distribution of prizes to pupils of the London Ragged School Union will take place in Exeter Hall on Tuesday, March 16, at five o'clock p.m., under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

In the *St. James's* one is glad to see the interest of "A Life's Assize" and of "Hirell" so well maintained, and also to find an article upon "Hans Breitmann's Barty and other Ballads,"—the last good thing from America in the shape of humorous verse. The little book is by Mr. C. G. Leland, the translator of Heine, and it is said that Messrs. Trübner and Co. have another volume from the same pen in the press. Let us hope so, for "Hans Breitmann's Barty" ("party," of course) is one of the funniest things I ever read and enjoyed; while the fact of its rapid and general success proves that other people like it about as much as I do.

The *Gentleman's*, as usual, is good. Mr. Shirley Brooks commences his "Tales from the Old Dramatists," and very delightful reading they promise to be. Mr. W. Sawyer writes a pleasant paper on "Quoting and Capping." I do not understand the article, "Why do we Write?"—a plea for some shorter way of recording thought and feeling than that which is now in use. It might as reasonably be asked, Why do we speak? Mr. Epicurus Bydel, the "New M.P.," is very agreeable upon "The First Night of the Session." He can and does write sensible, gentlemanly, thoughtful gossip about the people and the House, where half the London correspondents and people of that class merely produce invidious personal twaddle.

Good Words appears with a supplement, of the same price. I do not know if one is sold without the other, but I should hope so. The publishers state that they expect by this additional "issue" to keep the contributors together better, and also to please their public better; and I am sure I hope they will succeed with this

Literature.

Red Rover. A Novel. By CHARLES GIBBON, author of "Dangerous Connections." 3 vols. London: Blackie and Son, 1893.

ature. The two leading stories are excellent; and Mr. Gibson's short essays are this month capital. Miss Ingelow's sonnets are in much that is beautiful; but the great effort of the reviewer should be directed to the cadences. Still, these quatrains are excellent; and I shall look at them again. Dr. Macleod's sonnets are very natural and good. Mr. Foreyth on the Rev. Brooke Herford's memoir of Travers Madge, which, like all this gentleman's writing, is beautiful in tone; but nobody can make me feel any confidence in the opinions of a man so full of personal vacillation as that amiable and devoted young ascetic. Effectively, his last creed was nearly the same as the creed he started with. Even upon the point of difference upon which Professor Plumptre would insist most, the apparent divergence could take very small dimensions in the crucible of a resolute analysis. By-the-way, is the Rev. Mr. Madge still at Essex-street? I always thought a gentleman of the name of Ham would find his place. Again, at the foot of the second column of Mr. Plumptre's review from Travers Madge what looks to me like a rough memorandum of something said by Mr. Martineau. I feel sure that gentleman would never have written such a passage without guarding the words "salvation" and "redemption." As the passage stands, the effect of it is unjust to Mr. Martineau. It may possibly refer to a sermon which very much astonished the late Dr. Vaughan. Dr. Vaughan went away and gave his account of it, and Mr. Martineau, in self-justification, published it. But I am writing in haste, away from books, and feel sure of nothing except that those words are not Mr. Martineau's, and that Travers Madge was by no means the man to be trusted to abstract anybody's language. Mr. Camden's "Travels Behind a Plough" are very charming. I suppose Calinghamshire is Essex; Dulchester, Colchester; and Axleford, Lenden?

As to *London Society*, I must observe that neither Macaulay, who is quoted, nor the author of the "Piccadilly Papers," is qualified to criticise a great man (spoiled, I admit) like Edward Irving. For a man of Macaulay's thin, cold, worldly quality to go and say that Irving was a hypocrite because he wore his hair in so singular a fashion was more than "brusque," it was insolent. But Macaulay, with all his merits, was one of those men who had no idea of their own limitations. Full of mistakes of the press, bad punctuation, and with at least one word left out, Mr. Robert Buchanan's "London Lyrics," "The City Asleep" (I see the title "City Poems" is renounced: I suppose because Alexander Smith had appropriated it before), appears to me not only the best of the series, but of very peculiar merit in itself. By-the-way, his second reading at the Hanover-square Rooms was, both as to the audience and the reception of the reader, a very distinct success. I see it announced that he is now going through, or at least into, the provinces, where I suppose he will vary his bill of fare from time to time. He has plenty to choose from, for, considering how short a time he has been writing, he has been very prolific.

Mr. Beeton's "Great Book of Poetry" has reached its fifth part, and when completed it will evidently be a valuable collection of the best verses in the English language. Tastes differ, but I miss much of Milton's very best—the "song" of Comus, for example, which is, perhaps, the finest piece of versification in the language; and some choice bits in "Samson Agonistes" and the "Paradise." However, the wonder is how such a collection could have been made so good by one editor.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

When Dr. Westland Marston's name appears as the author of a new piece, it is a guarantee that, whatever other faults the piece may have, it is certain to be charged with much thought, carefully expressed in excellent English. There is no writer for the stage who is more zealous of the stage's honour than Dr. Marston; and, if his pieces have not been as universally popular as they deserve to be, it is because he has taken a higher view of the dignity of his profession than is ordinarily consistent with extreme popularity. His most recent production, "Life for Life," will, in all probability, achieve but a moderate success. It seems to be admirably written, but it is defective in interest, and the construction is far from masterly. The literary merit of the piece will be at once appreciated by the thinking members of the audience at the LYCEUM; but people do not usually go to theatres to think—they go to be amused, or to have their feelings worked upon by a succession of dramatic events, appealing principally to the eye and incidentally to the ear; and plays which fail in bringing about one or other of these effects are simply failures, in a monetary sense. That "Life for Life" must be classed among pieces which fail to hit their mark, will, I think, be conceded by every candid playgoer. The action of the piece does not begin until the middle of the third act, and, when it does begin, the course it takes is so exceedingly improbable that, although it is dramatic in its nature, it does not appear to enchain the attention of the audience in the least degree. The scenes between the heroine and her lover, although admirably written, are very much too long, and the whole of the third act requires remodelling. Indeed, it always appears to me that every act which consists of more than one scene is open to improvement in the matter of construction. The story of the piece is based on the old feud between Scottish clans. The Macdonalds and Mackanes were rival tribes, at deadly hostilities with one another. In the course of a fight a son of Murdock, the chief of the Mackanes, is taken prisoner; but his life is spared at the intercession of Lillian (the daughter of Angus, chief of the Macdonalds), on condition that he will join his captor's clan. Thus the boy consents to do. Lillian loves a young knight, Sir Oscar, who is, unfortunately, brother of the Murdock, chief of the hostile Mackanes. Murdock, whose sense of vengeance against the Macdonalds is more bitter than ever since the supposed death of his boy at the hands of a party of that clan, is furious at the alliance that his brother contemplates, and determines to put a stop to the possibility of such a marriage taking place by killing the young lady. He obtains admission to her, disguised as a wandering harper, and is about to stab her when his son appears, and the vindictive Murdock is (morally) disarmed. He learns that it was owing to Lillian's intercession that his son's life was spared, and he at once consents to Lillian's union with Oscar, and to the amalgamation of the rival clans. Miss Neilson, who plays Lillian, has, as everyone knows, a remarkably pretty face, an exquisitely delicate speaking voice, and a very distinct enunciation. These are all very valuable qualities, and go far, of themselves, to ensure sympathy if not absolute success. Miss Neilson's reading is extremely intelligent and vivacious—but its effect is marred, to some extent, by an appearance of self-consciousness, a desire to be eternally graceful—a suggestion, indeed, of the photographic studio rather than of the stage. Mannerism of this kind is, I suppose, difficult to throw off, after it has once been acquired; but, if difficult, the effort is not impossible. Mr. Hermann Vezin has an ungrateful, unpleasant part, with one deep sentiment of revenge running through it, and culminating on an outrageous attempt to stab an utterly defenceless woman in vindication of a supposed wrong to his house. The situation was a most dangerous one, and in the hands of any other actor than Mr. Vezin might have been fatal to the piece. Miss Minnie Sydney played the son Kenelm very charmingly. This young lady, if she takes due trouble with her elocution, is certain to occupy a prominent position on the London stage before long. The other parts call for no comment. The scenery is good. A well-arranged bustling ballet occurs in the third act.

Mr. Byron has a three-act drama in preparation at the GLOBE. A new entertainment, written by Mr. W. S. Gilbert, will be given by Mr. and Mrs. German Reed and Mr. Arthur Cecil on Easter Monday at the ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.

MR. HATTON HAVES STANFIELD, who for many years satisfactorily filled the office of official assessor in the court of the late Mr. Commissioner Foulsham, and who has since acted as provisional assessor in winding up the old Insolvency cases, has been appointed by the Lord Chancellor to fill the vacancy in the post of official assessor in Mr. Commissioner Holroyd's court, vacant by the dismissal of Mr. Edwards.

What a wonderful degree of vitality and suggestiveness those old ballads and songs possess, whether they be English or Scotch! And they possess that vitality because they contain a very large measure of truthfulness to "nature and human nature," as Sam Slick has it. How many of our modern lyrical effusions will exhibit like power of living in people's hearts, we wonder? Here, for instance, is the ballad of "Auld Robin Gray," itself of hoary antiquity, furnishing a theme to Mr. Andrew Halliday for a highly and deservedly popular play, and to Mr. Gibbon for a novel that deserves to be still more popular, if the genuine Scottish Doric in which the characters talk do not tend to mar its success in fashionable circles south of the Tweed. While speaking of language, we may congratulate Mr. Gibbon upon not only making his peasants, and farmers, and fishers, and even "ama' lairds" converse in the real language of their country, sphere of life, and time, but on doing what few, if any, authors have ever achieved before—to wit, making a Highlander use consistently and naturally that extraordinary form of English which the Scottish Celts have invented as a substitute for their native Gaelic, and as a means of communion with their "Sassenach" neighbours. In Ivan Carrach this is accomplished, and so successfully that this writer, who has had considerable opportunities of listening to "Hieland" talk, has been unable to detect a single false phrase or one instance of defective pronunciation.

The first volume of Mr. Gibbon's novel follows pretty closely the old and pathetic ballad which gives the story its name. "Auld Robin Gray" turns up as a Scotch farmer; "Young Jamie" is James Falcon, an orphan, who has been brought up by the laird, Nicol McWhapple; and the heroine is Jeanie Lindsay, a fisherman's daughter. "To make the crown a pound, young Jamie gaed to sea; and auld Robin Gray came a courting me," says Jeanie in the song; and so it happens in the story. But, in the meanwhile, tidings have come that Jamie is drowned at sea. For good and sufficient cause, as subsequently appears, Nicol McWhapple, the laird, seems anxious to dispense with Falcon's presence on earth; and consequently enters into league with the skipper of the brig in which Jamie sails to have the vessel set on fire. When the planned catastrophe does occur, all hands, except the hero, are saved in one of the boats, and return to land with the story of his death. Misfortunes fall upon the Lindsays; the mother is bedridden, the father breaks his arm, their cow is stolen, and Robin Gray, a well-to-do farmer and a very worthy and affectionate man, assists them in an unobtrusive way, and asks Jeanie's hand as an ample return for all he has done or may yet do. Jeanie is persuaded by her parents to give her consent, and Robin is beside himself with joy. By-and-by, however, Jamie Falcon, the wanderer, returns, not having been drowned, as was reported, and finds his sweetheart married. From this point the story is entirely Mr. Gibbon's own; the ballad, having served its purpose of suggestion, is cast aside; and the characters and incidents develop themselves in a way that is both powerful and natural. We will not anticipate the pleasure our readers are sure to derive from a perusal of the work (if they can only get over difficulties of dialect, that is) by a further indication of the plot, but we may safely say that it is admirably worked out. All the characters thoroughly act the parts, whether of good or evil, wisdom or folly, that were natural to them in the circumstances in which they were placed. Jamie Falcon is noble, true, and honourable; Jeanie is genuine, gentle, and forgiving, as becomes a thorough woman and a true wife; Robin Gray, though rash and unjust for a time, could not well, with his lights, have been otherwise, and is as hearty in his repentance as he was headstrong in his ire; the laird is consistently mean, tricky, and shiftily throughout; old Adam Lindsay is a type of the cold, rigidly upright, and somewhat unsympathetic northerner who always does just as well as he knows how, and has little comprehension of more impulsive natures, and consequently can make no allowance for their aberrations; while Carrach, as we have already hinted, is one of the best-drawn characters we have "foregathered" with for a very long time. Indeed, as a contemporary remarks, "he is about as satisfactory a villain as we have ever met with in a book. His sublime unconsciousness, his coolness, his splendid capacity for whisky, and his excellent Gaelic-English, make him quite a treasure." After he has gagged Jeanie and carried her on board his schooner, he quietly remarks, "You'll no care to jump into the water; and if you do—I'll no care." Then he asks her good-naturedly if "she'll hae a dram." There is a fine touch of humour here, which many readers might not perceive. Among the lower classes in Scotland, the general form of salutation addressed to anyone entering a house is, "Will ye tak' a dram?" Accordingly, Mr. Gibbon's characters, whether bent on murderous or felonious intent, invariably ask each other to "hae a dram." There is something peculiarly odd in the notion of a man being confronted by his bitterest enemy, and yet, out of custom, asking him to drink whisky. When Carrach is drawn into conversation about the man whom he fancied he had murdered, the old habit is so strong upon him that he drinks his good-health, and declares him to have been a "prave poy, but always pushing his nose into other folk's business; and that was a bother. But, oich, he's dead; and I'll want to hear spoke of him no more." Taking it altogether, "Robin Gray" is a story of a very high order, and we hope to meet the author in the fields of fiction again ere long; or, in consideration of the neglected education of southern readers, we hope he will be a little less Scotch next time. English novel-readers ought to know Scotch, of course; but then, unfortunately, most of them do not; so, pray, in mercy to them, translate a little in future, Mr. Gibbon; and may you not lose power, either in observing, inventing, or delineating character, as you become more English!

NEW POETRY.

Basilissa; the Free of a Secret Craft. A Poem. By COMPTON READE. Oxford: T. and G. Shrimpton; London: Whittaker and Co.

The Fountain of Youth, and other Poems. Extracted from "Sketches by the Wayside." By the Rev. HERBERT TODD. London: Provost and Co.

Mr. Disraeli, in one of his novels, uses a well-known phrase thus:—"I speak advisedly," as fools say in the House of Commons; and, though not on the scene and, perhaps, not resembling the character described by Mr. Disraeli, we feel bound to explain that we use the word POETRY "advisedly." Not but what it is a good word when applied, in modern days, to the writings of such men as Browning and Tennyson; but then there are no "such" men, and, therefore, the word becomes misapplied when descriptive of the productions of the mob of gentlemen who write with ease. The word "verse" is very much better than "poetry"—as most people will agree a few years after their little green-bound foolscap volume has died its natural death. And yet that same brochure, or ranting, as the authors always describe it, has something in itself which is evidence of aspiration—and there is much to be hoped for in aspiration. And so they must be respected. The two books under consideration are of the verse, rather than of the poetry, kind; but yet they differ materially in many respects. Mr. Compton Reade is pretentious, which may be the reason why he takes first place here. He is in quarto, with a red and black titlepage, and writes in (to save confusion about the "meters" the measure of Longfellow's "Evangeline." But this is done without success; the lines are constantly wrong, and that is quite enough to show that, however poetic Mr. Compton Reade may be, he is no master of poetic art. The poet, as a workman, selects his tools, and must be stupid indeed not to handle them properly. For the rest, "Basilissa" is a pretty story of love, jealousy, and faithfulness, charmingly told here and there, and, as will happen, somewhat marred by passages of obscurity and

disfigured by words which must have taken hours and hours to get from the dictionary. Of course, they are in the dictionary—and there they should have been suffered to rest. What Basilissa's "secret craft" is, is never explained. With just a specimen of Mr. Compton Reade's undoubted ability, we can shake hands, and perhaps shake them better on a better occasion:—

Courtly in little things (little things are dearest to women,
Judging a man by his gloves, or the studied droop of the shoulders),
Amaranth knew how to please: what time to sympathy slumber,
What time in delicate vein imperceptible flattery flatter,
Praises of dress or of style; sneers at contrary modes of adornment;
Coinciding, inquiring, forswearing, admiring, and hinting
Much abasement of self—the most exalted enthronement
Far beyond titles or mole, of her, Basilissa the peerless.
Next he elected to scorn his possible bride of compulsion,
Lady Belinda, the plain, the chosen of his father and mother;
Union is forced on earth, but marriage is joined in heaven.
She might become his spouse—his life, his happiness, never!
High, too high was his soul to care for an in-volent nothing!
One so untrue to a friend would be doubly false to a husband.
Thus he wooed her with skill, and she, unsuspecting and faithful,
Played with the artifice laid, as a bird with the snare of the fowler.
Practice had taught him this fact—that a fair one will banish a lover,
Earnest, honest, and true, and above-board in every dealing,
When she will yield up her soul to an actor's cajolery, helpless;
Therefore the worse the intent, the better the chance of succeeding!
Hypocrite, reprobate, sly, was Amaranth, son of a Marquis.

The Rev. Herbert Todd is of a different stamp to Mr. Compton Reade. From his cloth a certain amount of religious sentiment might be expected, and here it is, and always in good taste. Less of the prevalent obnoxious cant than is to be found in these pages cannot be imagined, for there is none. The admirers of devotional poetry will like Mr. Todd's occasional hymns, which are really poetic, as Watts's and others are not. Throughout, the versification is varied and perfect. It would be difficult to find out a fault, and the simplest thing in the world to open the book and find something pleasing, though not absolutely grand or beautiful. The phrase "plain-sailing" will apply to it; and this is said in no disgraceful way of "damning with faint praise." Mr. Todd has much of the calm and dispassionate style of Longfellow; and, by way of contrast, he imitates some of the repulsive passages of Shelley. By "repulsive" we mean much of the "Masque of Anarchy" and the passages where the plants rot, in the "Sensitive Plant." Mr. Todd will agree with us that one of the most difficult things in life is to be original, especially when one is full of that enthusiasm and imitation invariably induced by copious reading. As with Mr. Reade, we select one passage—selected with no particular regard for its comparative value—from the graceful verses of Mr. Todd:—

Far, far away
From the clay home but lately tenanted
Thou fleddest, having dwelt there but a day,
As though scared thence by some dim shape of dread.

Oh! white-winged soul,
Why didst thou leave so soon thy lowly shrine?
Didst thou therein resist thy high control?
Was it not meet to be an home of thine?

On a poor instrument,
As one who preludeth sweet melody,
Hearing harsh notes from the slack strings upsent,
Leaves it once more to still obscurity;

So fleddest thou:
Thy soul recoiled from the dark lore of life,
As some sweet woman scans, with pained brow,
Then leaves, scarce read, a tale of blood and strife;

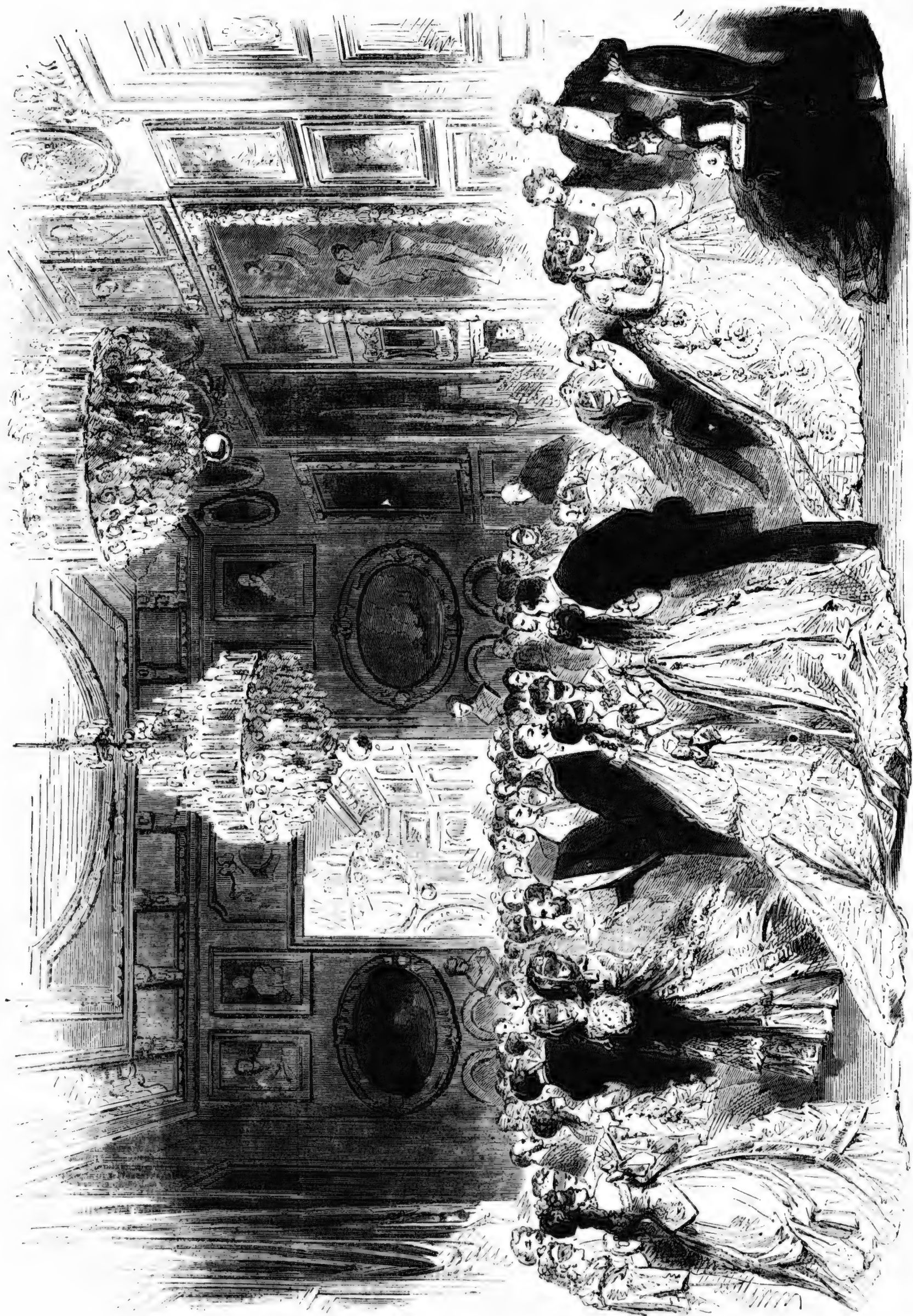
Or as a dove,
Lighting on earth from out untroubled skies,
Views the sad, soiled earth with keen unrest,
Then, with its white wings spread, once more to heaven doth rise.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION.—The board of conciliation and arbitration recently established in the Staffordshire Potteries have recognised the importance of having a definite settlement of a question which has for a long period been a source of agitation and difficulty—namely, whether the men should be paid for ware before it is fired, or only for what proves to be good after the process of firing. The board have resolved that each section should bring the question before its constituents, and that a set of rules and regulations should be prepared, and a system adopted which would be the means of putting an end to the bickerings so long kept up in connection with the trade of the district. The board consists of manufacturers and workmen, with a stipendiary magistrate for umpire, whose decision is final. More than one dispute has been settled by reference to the board since it came into existence, and but for which there would, in one instance, at least, have been a strike and a serious stoppage of trade.

PRESENTATION TO A. HARRIS, ESQ., OF THE ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA HOUSE, COVENT-GARDEN.—The close of a more than usually prosperous season at the Royal Italian Opera House, Covent-garden, has been signalled by a presentation of a very interesting nature, to Mr. A. Harris, the highly-esteemed lessee and manager. The testimonial consists of a magnificent centrepiece in silver (from the well-known atelier of Benson, of 25, Old Bond-street), in which a central stem, beautifully modelled and chased, supports a richly-engraved and cut-glass fruit-dish, and, above this, a vase for flowers. The base on each side is surmounted by a semi-nude female figure, in a graceful recumbent position; and the whole is mounted on a carved and polished ebony stand, bearing a silver plate with appropriate inscription. The presentation took place last Saturday evening, after the performance, by E. House, Esq., treasurer, on behalf of the committee, in the presence of the artistes and employees, of the establishment, and many private friends, who were desirous of testifying in this manner their appreciation of the uniform urbanity and kindness of feeling which have always characterised Mr. Harris during the many years of his connection with the Covent-garden house.

THE IRISH CHURCH TEMPORALITIES SURPLUS.—It will be of interest to recall some information obtained at the taking of the last Irish Census in 1861. It was ascertained that there were at that time 439 deaf and dumb persons in Ireland—that is to say, one in 1176 of the population. It appears also that there were 723 persons dumb, but not deaf, making, with the former number, 563, or one in every 1024 of the population; and 1542 other persons were deaf only. Official returns obtained from twenty-one countries in Europe and North America showed a mean of only one person deaf and dumb in 1526 of population. There were 6879 blind persons in Ireland, being one in 849 of the population; the mean of the returns from twenty-one countries was only one in 1267. The number of lunatics in Ireland was 7065, or one in 821 of the population; the mean of returns obtained from nineteen countries was only one in 1036. The number of idiotic persons in Ireland was 7034, or one in 825 of the population; the mean of returns obtained from ten countries was only one in 1261. Persons who are idiotic and also dumb, or deaf and dumb, have probably been here reckoned in two classes; but it seems plain enough that Ireland has a large share of persons in a state of affliction and destitution which people of every faith feel it a religious duty to relieve. There were 4120 persons in Ireland lame or decrepit, one in 1408 of the population; but it does not appear how many of them were prevented from earning their living. There were 28,193 persons sick at their own homes, being one in 203 of the population; and 26,699 of them were prevented by their illness from following their usual occupation.

ADULTERATION OF SEEDS.—Efforts are being made by those interested in the seed trade to obtain some additional legislation in reference to it. There are great complaints of the admixture of killed German rape seed with English turnipseed, which it resembles in appearance, and also of the killing and colouring of inferior and cheap clover seeds and trefoil for the purpose of adulteration. There is already a law in force which provides a remedy for any person who purchases seeds and sustains a loss thereby, the vendor being made responsible; but this is not considered sufficient, and great dissatisfaction exists on the subject. A bill has accordingly been prepared with the view of repressing the practice of adulteration. It provides that killing or dyeing seeds shall be an offence punishable by a fine not exceeding £50 and costs. Seeds are killed by several processes, such as steaming, scalding, baking, drying in kilns, &c., any of which destroys their vitality. They are coloured by dyeing, sulphur-smoking, and other means, with the object of mixing undetected with seeds of a different kind and colour. It is at once evident that such practices, if they prevail to any extent, must be most detrimental to the agricultural interest, and it is only reasonable that the cultivator should be protected against them by law. For a second offence, it is provided that the Court shall have the power, besides inflicting the fine, to order the publication of the offender's name, occupation, and place of business by the informant or prosecutor. The offender may be prosecuted under the Petty Sessions Act, or before a metropolitan stipendiary magistrate; and in cases where the fine shall exceed £5, he shall have the right of appeal to the quarter sessions. No summary conviction under this Act shall be quashed for want of form, or be removed by certiorari or suspension into any superior court, and its provisions shall not affect the remedy by civil process, which the person aggrieved has under the Act already in existence.—*Chamber of Agriculture Journal.*



WINTER FÊTES IN PARIS: SOIRÉE AT THE HOUSE OF M. ARSENE HOUSSEY.

THE LATE M. TROPLONG.

THE state funeral of M. Troplong, of whom we last week published a few biographical facts, was a most imposing spectacle. The pall-bearers were two Cabinet Ministers (M. Rouher and M. Baroche), then the Vice-President, M. Baudet, and the President of the Corps Législatif. The Dukes of Bassano and Cambacères represented the Emperor; Count Lézia Marneza represented the Empress. The six horses which drew the bier were each held by a groom; 10,000 men were under arms and kept the ground from the Luxembourg to St. Sulpice, and thence to Père la Chaise. The music within the church was splendid. Three speeches were delivered at the grave—by M. Baroche, M. Baudet, and Foustin H. Elie, in the name of the Academy of Moral and Political Science. The interment in Paris, however, is only temporary, it being intended to remove the remains of M. Troplong to Nice, where his only child—a daughter—lies buried.

BALL AT THE HOTEL ARSENE-HOUSSAYE, IN PARIS.

THE period known in Paris as that of *Mi-Carême* is a kind of break in the severities that belong to Lent, without which mitigation of the feteless season the inhabitants of the French capital might find life unendurable. It is a period lasting, like the life of the Mayfly, only, as it were, a single day; but then what a bright, fluttering time it is! Back again everybody goes to metaphorical sackcloth and ashes, after the brief interlude; but then the dull season is broken; and there is the end of Lent, with the dawn of the carnival in sight. Of course, the carnival observances are far more dreary than any Lenten obligations; less to be desired than bitter salad and black bread are the terrible *petits soupers*—all flabby cutlets, damp chicken, and indigestible composite strata of food, washed down with wiry champagne; more cheerful than the worn-out indecencies and trebly-rehearsed merriment of the *bal de l'opera* and similar assemblies are the quietest of decorous teas or farinaceous snacks of the serious time. And yet what would you have? What is to become of the costumiers, the orchestras, the masters of the ceremonies—to say nothing of other classes who find their interest in the pretence of kicking up one's heels—if the usual festivities are suffered to fall into disuse? There are assemblies and assemblies, however, and the real "society" of Paris has sections some of which know how to make a ball an agreeable diversion even in these days. Our Engraving represents one of the most select and charming *réunions* that have marked the season; and happy were those who had an invitation to these Tuesdays, where wit and wisdom—to say nothing of rank and fashion—met and exchanged compliments.

Between the Rue Balzac and the Rue Bel-Respiro, on the Friedland-avenue, and almost opposite the little palace of the Duke of Brunswick, stands the Hotel d'Arsène-Houssaye, a charming mansion of the Renaissance order, in which Greek meets Frank in architectural device, and Pericles may be said to confer with Francis I. The façade, however, is quite in the modern Renaissance style, and is distinguished by a statue of Diana in the front, caryatides supporting the first story, and the Cupids that ornament the stonework of the windows. The great door opens on a vestibule with fluted Doric columns in white stucco and all sorts of sculptured floral decoration; and this vestibule is the scene of the reception of statesmen, politicians, authors, musicians, artists, men of science, financiers, gaudins, flâneurs, and all the varieties of the fashionable species. One peculiarity we must notice. All the ladies wear masks, and are therefore not supposed to be recognised; so that politeness forbids their identification, even though they may be distinguished by the liberal display of neck and shoulder which is now the fashion. It is said—by that ill-natured somebody who always does say things—that masks have been adopted at these *réunions*, because no plain woman could appear with confidence at the house of a writer who has sketched such lovely nymphs. However this may be, only the male guests are without the concealment secured by mask or domino, and appear in simple evening dress. It is not, strictly speaking, for dancing that these assemblies are held. The main object is simply to bring together a number of clever, witty, and agreeable people, and the object is *talk*. Very often, however, a ball is improvised—a kind of superior



THE LATE M. TROPLONG, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH SENATE.

carpet-dance varying the proceedings of the evening. The fine apartment represented in our illustration is that in which the *réunions* are held, and is reached by a marble staircase from the centre of the vestibule; while an ante-room or saloon adjoining it leads to a balcony overlooking the garden of the mansion.

SPANISH VOLUNTEERS FOR THE DEFENCE OF CUBA.

THE proceedings in the Spanish Cortes, and the uncertainty of the decision as to the form of government to be adopted now that the insurrection has done its work, have absorbed so much public interest that other events, which would at a more settled period demand earnest attention, are suffered to pass without any very special reference in the news of the day. Our Engraving, however, represents a movement which is in itself significant—that is to say, the formation of battalions of volunteers in the mother country for the protection of the last Spanish possessions in the Antilles. The Spanish volunteers form the élite of the army, as may be inferred from the services performed by the Catalan regiments in the war with Morocco, and it is to these that the most difficult and arduous duty is often intrusted. The new regiments consist of *chasseurs*, and are principally composed of volunteers from Aragon.

THE THOMAS WRIGHT TESTIMONIAL.

ON Wednesday evening a large number of ladies and gentlemen assembled at the studio of Mr. Mercier, Albert-gate, for the purpose of inspecting the large picture entitled "The Condemned Cell," the principal figure in which is the

"prison philanthropist"—Thomas Wright. Many years have elapsed since the name of Thomas Wright was one of the most familiar in the mouths of all who busied themselves with questions bearing on criminal reform and the treatment of the dangerous classes, and since a large number of distinguished personages, headed by her Majesty, united to relieve Wright from further necessity of manual labour. But during those years the "prison philanthropist," as he is invariably called in Lancashire, has pursued, even on an enlarged scale, those voluntary efforts and unpaid labours in behalf of the prisoners in her Majesty's gaols which in years gone by made his name a household word in that part of England. The unobtrusive and retiring disposition of the good old man has contributed to the withdrawal of his name from the public mouth; but there have not been wanting those who have never lost sight of him or his work. The success which has attended everywhere the ministrations of Thomas Wright, the influence he has gained over the minds of prisoners, the high testimony borne to the influence of the good he exerts by the governors and officials of the various gaols which he has visited, have twice induced the Government to offer him the official position of travelling-inspector of prisons, with a salary of £800 per annum; but Mr. Wright invariably refused the appointment, on the plea that it would limit his power of doing good, as he felt sure that if it once became known that he was a Government official he should cease to be regarded as the prisoners' friend. The labours of Mr. Wright have now extended over so long a period that it has been deemed most desirable to raise some national and enduring memorial by which future generations may judge of what manner of man the "prison philanthropist" of our day was; and a very influential committee, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury, and comprising the names of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London, Sir F. Crossley, Sir J. Bardeley, General C. A. Edwards, C.B.; Mr. Sidebottom, M.P.; Mr. Birley, M.P.; Mr. Henry, M.P.; Mr. M'Arthur, M.P.; and Mr. W. D. Antrobus, with a great number of justices of the peace and eminent clergymen, have determined, after mature consideration, that the memorial should be of a pictorial character, and a public meeting was held at Salford, when it was unanimously resolved that an effort should be made to raise the necessary funds for the painting of three pictures of Mr. Wright, one of which was to be presented to London, one to Manchester, and the other to Salford. The committee's picture, entitled "The Condemned Cell," has been painted by Mr. Charles Mercier, and, of course, occupied a very conspicuous position in the artist's studio. Considering the successful issue, in a great many instances, of Mr. Wright's exhortations to convicts under sentence of death, no memorial could be more appropriate than this painting, which represents the prison philanthropist (a full-length life-size portrait) standing with an open Bible in his left hand, and his right resting tenderly on the shoulder of the unhappy criminal whose crouching, trembling figure and clenched hands contrast very strongly with the upturned devotional look and the benevolent yet firm expression of the features of the good old man. The picture was pronounced by those present who knew Mr. Wright to be a very striking likeness.

The Rev. Cosmo Gordon, the hon. sec. of the testimonial fund, stated that it was proposed to engrave the picture and present a copy of it to every prison, reformatory, ragged school, and benevolent institution in the kingdom, in order that every institution in which Mr. Wright had taken an interest might become possessed of a slight but enduring memorial of one who had literally passed between sixty and seventy years of his life in doing good to his poor but fallen fellow-man. He also stated that, although Mr. Wright was now nearly ninety years of age, he was still actively engaged in the pursuit of that which had been the main object of his now more than ordinarily long life.

OBITUARY.

SIR J. EMERSON-TENNENT.—Sir James Emerson-Tennent died very suddenly on Saturday last. He fell down in a kind of fit, and death was almost instantaneous. Sir James was the third and only surviving son of the late Mr. William Emerson, of Ardmore, in the county of Armagh, an eminent merchant at Belfast, by Sarah, youngest daughter of the late Mr. William Arbuthnot, of Rock-



SPANISH VOLUNTEERS FOR SERVICE IN THE COLONIES: CHASSEURS OF ARAGON.

ville, in the county of Down. He was born at Belfast, on April 7, 1791, so that in another month he would have completed the seventy-fifth year of his age. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he took the usual degrees, and ultimately proceeded LL.D. Soon after this he travelled abroad, and, among other countries, visited Greece; he was enthusiastic in the cause of Greek freedom, and while there made the acquaintance of Lord Byron. In 1831 he was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn, where he had entered himself as a student by the advice and under the auspices of Jeremy Bentham; but we are not aware that he ever practised or intended to practise that profession, as in the June of the same year he married Letitia, only daughter and heiress of Mr. William Tennent, a wealthy banker at Belfast, whose name and arms he assumed by Royal license in addition to his own. He entered Parliament, as M.P. for Belfast, in December, 1832, and was again elected in December, 1834; but he failed to obtain re-election at the dissolution consequent upon the King's death in the summer of 1837, though he was seated on petition in the following year. He was again returned for Belfast at the general election of 1841; but he now found the tables turned upon him, for a Parliamentary Committee unseated him. He regained his seat, however, in the following year, and held it until 1845, when, having held for some time the post of Secretary to the India Board, he accepted from Sir Robert Peel the Colonial Secretaryship of Ceylon. He was knighted on his appointment to this post, which he held until the end of the year 1850. He discharged the office of Secretary to the Poor-Law Board under Lord Derby's first Administration from February to November, 1852, during which year also he sat in Parliament as M.P. for Lisburn. Just before the retirement of Lord Derby from office he was appointed Permanent Secretary to the Board of Trade, an office from which he retired in 1867, in the February of which year he was raised to a Baronetcy. Sir James Emerson-Tennent was a deputy lieutenant for the counties of Fermanagh and Sligo; a magistrate for Down, Antrim, and Fermanagh; and a Knight Commander of the Greek Order of the Saviour. He was a frequent contributor to magazine literature, and a constant correspondent of *Notes and Queries*. He was the author also of some works of a more permanent character, among which we may mention his "Travels in Greece in 1825;" his "Letters from the Aegean;" his "History of Modern Greece;" his "Belgium in 1840;" his "Essay on the Copyright of Designs," a subject which he had studied very carefully while in Parliament; his "Wine, its Use and Taxation;" his "Account of Ceylon," an admirable and exhaustive work; and, lastly, his "History of Christianity in Ceylon." In politics Sir James was a Conservative of the English rather than of the Irish type. In early life, indeed, he had been a Liberal of a somewhat advanced character, and he first entered Parliament as a Reformer. He was, however, one of those who went over to the Tories about the same time as Lord Stanley, and during several Sessions his votes were given on the Tory side; but in his advanced years he adhered to the policy of Sir Robert Peel; and it was from Lord Palmerston's Government that he accepted his Baronetcy. By his marriage with Miss Tennent, already recorded, Sir James had issue two daughters and a son, Mr. William Emerson Tennent, of the Board of Trade, who now succeeds to the title as second Baronet. Sir William was born in 1835. He was educated at Rugby, and called to the Bar of the Inner Temple in 1859.

GENERAL SIR A. B. CLIFTON.—The death of General Sir Arthur Benjamin Clifton, which occurred on Monday, removes another from the decreasing list of Peninsular and Waterloo veterans. Authorities differ as to the age of the gallant officer. According to one account he was born in 1769, the year which witnessed the birth of the late Duke of Wellington and of the first Napoleon, so that he would have been now about a hundred years old. Another authority gives the date as 1770, and a third as 1772. Taking the General, therefore, at his youngest, he would have attained the age of ninety-seven, and would have been a British subject four years before the United States of America obtained their independence. Sir Arthur Clifton, who had a medal and clasps for service at Talavera, Busaco, and Toulouse, was heir-presumptive to the Baronetcy of his nephew, Sir Robert Clifton, one of the members for Nottingham.

M. HECTOR BERLIOZ.—We have to note the decease of the composer Hector Berlioz, in the sixty-sixth year of his age. He was born on Dec. 11, 1803, at La Côte St. André. His father, an eminent physician, designed him for the same profession, and at his desire Hector commenced the study of medicine; but after a year he resigned the pursuit of anatomy and devoted himself to music. In 1826 his father gave him up, and he was compelled to seek his livelihood, and accepted an engagement, at 50*fr.* a month, to sing in the chorus at the Gymnasium. At the same time Reicha and Lesueur directed his musical studies at the Conservatoire. It was not long before he produced a mass for four voices, with chorus and orchestra; which was soon followed by the overture to "Waverley," and his fantastic symphony based on "The Tempest," and on "Faust," which was arranged for the piano by Liszt. In these works he endeavoured to give to music all the expressive power of poetry, and to convey everything by effects without being too solicitous for the melody. In 1828 he gained the second prize of the institute for musical composition, and in 1830 won the first prize by his cantata of "Sardanapalus." He composed in that year a triumphal and funeral symphony in honour of the heroes of the Revolution, which was much admired. In the same year he travelled in Italy, and at Rome he composed the "Retour à la vie," a rendering of Goethe's "Fischerman," the chorus of Shades for "Hamlet," and overtures for "Rob Roy" and "King Lear," which, however, were not successful. In 1832 he returned to Paris; and at about this time he married Miss Smithson, an English actress. He became a musical critic and contributed to the *Gazette Musicale*, and afterwards to the *Journal des Débats*, where he was enabled to tilt gallantly in defence of his own musical innovations. He composed, at the request of Paganini, the symphony of "Harold," principally in alto, and it was executed by Urban with so much success as to encourage the boldness of the author. He then composed the opera of "Benvenuto Cellini," the libretto being by A. Barbier and Léon de Wailly; but the management were opposed to his innovations, and his failure was signal. Berlioz wielded his pen in a vain contest with his hostile critics, and at length became seriously ill. Paganini, however, sent him 20,000*fr.*, and declared he was the equal of Beethoven. In 1836 he composed a requiem, which was performed a year later at the funeral of General Dauremont, and quickly became celebrated. His symphony of "Romeo and Juliet," dedicated to Paganini, was as successful as "Harold." In 1839 he was appointed librarian to the Conservatoire. In 1843 he paid a visit to Belgium and to Germany, and in the same year produced his "Carnaval Romain." In 1844, on the occasion of the great festival at the Exposition d'Industrie, he composed a hymn to France, which was performed by an orchestra of 1000 musicians. In 1846 he published the "Condemnation of Faust;" in 1854 "The Infancy of Christ;" and later, an opera in five acts, "The Trojans." In the same year appeared the second edition of his "Voyage Musical en Allemagne et en Italie: Etudes sur Beethoven, Gluck, et Weber," in two vols., the first edition having been published in 1845. In 1855 he became one of the conductors of the concerts of the New Philharmonic Society. He was an active member of the juries on musical instruments at the Exhibitions in London and Paris, and in 1859 received the cross of the Legion of Honour. He was also the wearer of several foreign decorations. In 1856, on the decease of Adolphe Adam, Berlioz was elected a member of the Institute. Besides the works above named, he published a "Traité d'Instrumentation et d'Orchestration Moderne," a volume of miscellanies, "Soirées de l'Orchestre," and "Les Grotesques de la Musique."

THE BEWDLEY ELECTION has resulted in the return of the Conservative candidate, the numbers at the close of the poll being—Cunliffe (C), 477; Anson (L), 463; majority, 14.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

ALTHOUGH it has been officially announced that Mr. Mapleson and Mr. Gye have agreed to combine their forces for the coming season, there appears to be some doubt as to whether the combination will really be carried into effect. The *Daily News* hints very strongly that the scheme has broken down; and we gather from its guarded statements that there is a great probability of Her Majesty's Theatre being opened at no very advanced period of the season, under the direction of Mr. Mapleson, with Mr. Costa as musical conductor. If Signor Arditi goes to Mr. Gye, it is quite intelligible that Mr. Costa should go to Mr. Mapleson; but it will be strange, all the same, if this second project of union between the two managers should only end in a change of conductors. The managers have, of course, a right to make any arrangement they please; but, for the public, it would certainly be better to have two operas than only one.

An attempt is being made to resuscitate the Musical Society of London. The society, as we learn from a short statement on the subject drawn up by the honorary secretary, was, in April, 1867, compelled to suspend its proceedings for want of sufficient funds to meet the prospective expenses of the current season, the ordinary subscriptions received up to that period being insufficient and there being no reserve fund on which to fall back. Had such a fund existed, the society might well have tided over the difficulty and continued its previous prosperous career. The few Fellows who stood by the society to the last and paid their subscriptions for the year 1868 having determined to dissolve it, a scheme for its immediate reconstruction was suggested, and thirty gentlemen have already paid their subscriptions to the proposed reserve fund and enrolled themselves Fellows on this new basis of operation. The society will be limited to 100 Fellows, with one subscription of ten guineas; and any number of Associates subscribing one guinea for at least three successive years. Signor Randegger has been appointed conductor.

Rossini's "Petite Messe," as our able contemporary the *Musical World* persists in styling it, while protesting against the inaccuracy of the title, which cannot but hurt its sense of propriety, was called "Petite Messe" by the composer when it was about to be performed, five years ago, in a private house, with only pianoforte and harmonium accompaniments. "Messe Solennelle" is the title under which it is now performed, with full orchestral accompaniments, at the Théâtre Italien, Paris; and its definitive title will, no doubt, be "Missa Solennis." That is, certainly, what it will be called at Rome, where it is to be executed at the grand ceremony in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the day on which Pope Pius IX. first celebrated mass. Everyone knows that the language of the mass is Latin; and it would be absurd to give a French title, whether logically correct or incorrect, to a work in which the various pieces will be known as the "Gloria," the "Benedictus," the "Sanctus," and so on. The distinguished professor and critic, M. Elwart, has written an elaborate notice of Rossini's last production, of which the following is an abridgement:—"The 'Kyrie' opens with an introduction in severe style; after which the instruments are silent, while the vocal quartet sings a 'Christe' written in the manner of Palestrina. The 'Gloria' begins with a soprano solo. A very charming theme for the orchestra accompanies the voices in the 'Laudamus Te.' The 'Gratias,' a trio for contralto, tenor, and bass, is one of the finest things in the work. Its conclusion, where Rossini employs the plagal cadence, must be heard for all its beauty to be comprehended. The 'Domine Deus,' a solo for tenor, is full of passion; while the 'Qui tollis,' a duet for soprano and contralto, rises to an extraordinary elevation of style. The 'Quoniam,' a grand solo for bass, is followed by a choral fugue, 'Cum Sancto Spiritu,' distinguished for profound science and melodic beauty. A decrescendo on the dominant pedal is above all remarkable. The 'Credo' is a poem of picturesque design. After the enunciation of each article of faith with regard to the creation and the coming of Christ, the chorus answers 'Credo.' In the 'Crucifixus' the soprano voice recounts the Saviour's sufferings with a pathos which brings tears to the eyes. In the majestic 'Resurrexit' there is a fugue of colossal dimensions. Both the subject and counter-subject are remarkable, and the whole effect is sublime. The offertory, for orchestra, reminds one of the eighteenth century by its melody, but the harmony is novel and striking. The 'Sanctus,' which is preceded by a few instrumental chords, is written throughout for voices alone. The 'Benedictus' is one of the most charming melodic creations of the master, and is second only in the entire work to the 'Agnus Dei,' a contralto solo with choral responses. The latter is sublime."

NEW MUSIC.

If the song-music of the present day be not always good, it is, at least, very plentiful, and affords fair scope for choice. We have now before us some dozen new pieces, in the shape of songs with words and songs without words, on about as many different themes, and by as many different composers. We can only give a word or two to each.

1. First on our list—and first, too, in merit—are two songs composed by Virginia Gabriel (Duff and Stewart, London, publishers), the one entitled "Only" and the other "Weary," both of which flow sweetly and smoothly, as well as regards words as music, and are in each respect very different from, because very superior to, some productions which have enjoyed a large measure of popularity lately. We have here some real touches of natural feeling, especially in "Only," and no smack whatever of the music hall rubbish which one hears howled everywhere nowadays. These songs deserve, and we hope will obtain, wide acceptance in fire-side and drawing-room circles. "Only" is dedicated to the Hon. Mrs. Dudley Ward and "Weary" to Lady John Manners.

2. Messrs. Duff and Stewart also publish "None can Tell," a sequel to the ballad "Who can tell?" by the same composer, G. B. Allen, which is a kind of echo of the earlier production, and possesses considerable merit.

3. "Resignation" (G. Emery and Co., London) is a song by Clarabel to Longfellow's words, and would be pretty if not marred by an awkward repetition of a phrase in the second and fourth lines of each stanza, thus:—

There is no flock, however watched and tended,
But one, but one dead lamb is there;
There is no fireside, howsoever defended,
But owns one vacant, owns one vacant chair.

This repetition, to our fancy, is disagreeable, because it spoils the continuity of idea and the flow of the poetry; and reminds us of Burns's reply to Thomson, who wished to set "Scots wha' hae" to the air of "Lewie Gordon," which involved a similar repetition, that he "could not conceive of the Royal orator stuttering in that ridiculous fashion; or producing any impression upon his soldiers, if he did, unless it were to make them laugh at him."

4. From Messrs. Emery and Co. we have a song, "Sweet Mother: there's Music in the Sound," the poetry by W. H. Bellamy, and the music by W. H. Weiss, of which it may be said that the latter is better than the former, because less commonplace in idea. "Belle of the Season," a valse by R. Coote, is another production issued by the same publishers, and which is, like most Tyburnian—that is, fashionable—music, pretty, but not much in it.

5. Messrs. Metzler and Co. are publishing a series of pianoforte pieces by Mr. Stephen Glover, entitled "Recollections of the Rhine," two of which we have received. No. 1 is illustrated by a view of St. Goar and the ruins of Rheinfels, and No. 2 by a view of the famous Drachenfels; and both exhibit the characteristics that usually distinguish the productions of Mr. Stephen Glover. To those who are familiar with those productions this remark will be sufficiently suggestive; and those who are not familiar with Mr. Glover's style, had better procure "Recollections of the Rhine," and become so forthwith.

The only one of the musical periodicals that has reached us this month is *Exeter Hall* (Metzler and Co.), and its contents are:—1, "In the Wilderness," song, the verses by Frederick Enoch, the music by

Henry Smart; 2, "The Harp of David," for pianoforte, composed by Immanuel Liebhich; 3, "Lord Help Us," words by Emily Bond, music by Elizabeth Philip; 4, "Sunday Evenings at the Hermonium," No. 13, which include pieces by P. Lindpaintner, M. Puget, and a "Russian Harvest Hymn." So that amateur musicians of a serious turn of mind who purchase *Exeter Hall* have ample value for their money.

CLAMEUR DE HARO.

THE Scotch Presbyterian Church at St. Helier's, Jersey, was the scene of a strange occurrence on Thursday, March 4, arising from the following circumstances:—Above twelve months ago the management of the church was transferred from the Scotch to the English Presbytery. Since that period no regular minister has been appointed, and the services have been conducted by "supplies" sent by the English Presbytery. Some of the supplies were candidates for the office of pastor, and the members of the congregation were divided in their choice of two of them. Neither party would yield to the other in this matter of choice, and at last another candidate, the Rev. J. J. Muir, succeeded in obtaining a "call," numerously signed by the members and congregation, and the call having been accepted by him, Thursday, March 4, was appointed as the day for his induction. The minority resolved, if possible, to prevent the ceremony from being performed, and, with this intent, fastened the gates of the church with padlocks. Being better advised, however, they removed the locks and allowed the church to be opened. The congregation was very numerous, the church being filled. A sermon was preached by the Rev. Robert Taylor, of Comblenell, and the ceremony of induction performed by the Rev. George Carlisle, moderator of the London Presbytery. At the conclusion of the induction a strange scene was enacted, such as the walls of a church never before witnessed. Mr. Clark, one of the trustees of the church, and who is also one of the minority who are opposed to the appointment of Mr. Muir, left his seat, and, entering one of the aisles and kneeling down in the hearing and sight of the congregation, raised what is known in Jersey judicature as the "Clameur de Haro." This is a form which dates as far back as the time of Rollo, a Norman leader, who occupied a portion of Normandy about 886. It is used on occasions of encroachment or invasion of property of any kind, and requires instant cessation on the part of the aggressor, under penalty of a heavy fine. The aggrieved party, kneeling, cries out, as did Mr. Clark on this occasion, "Haro, Haro, à mon aide, mon Prince! On m'a fait tort!" The effect upon the congregation may be better imagined than described. Those who were unaware of the nature of the "clameur" were in a state of the greatest surprise and astonishment. The proceedings, however, were not stayed, and Mr. Clark and his friends left the church, with the intention, it was said, of at once instituting the usual legal proceedings which follow the raising of the "clameur."—*Times*.

The account of the surprise and excitement produced in the Scotch church in Jersey by the raising of the ancient "Clameur de Haro" testifies to the extreme antiquity of the custom; but, although the language employed by the reclamant—"Haro, haro, à mon aide, mon Prince! On m'a fait tort"—suggests, perhaps, the reference of it in the report to Rollo, that is an interpretation which antiquarians have rejected. It was at one time thought to be an invocation of justice in the name of Harold; at another to be "Ha! Raoul," or "O, Rollo," the most just of Norman leaders. The monk Kero, however, contemporary with the father of Charlemagne, wrote a glossary in which he explained "clamat" by "haret," which shows that "haro" denoted the hue and cry in Normandy before Rollo's birth. "Our forefathers," says Caseneuve, "used 'haro' absolutely to signify a noise and cry." According to Hickes, in the early laws of Normandy the cry of "haro" indicates that a crime has been committed, and all who hear it are bound to go forth, and if they see "any danger to life or limb, or any deed done which would subject the perpetrator to loss of life or limb, they are under obligation to retain him, or to raise the cry of 'haro' after him. Otherwise they are to satisfy their prince that they did not hear the cry." Tyrwhitt discovered that the word was in some districts "harop," and derived it from two Icelandic words—"har" (high) and "op" (clamour). "Harop" is a word which often occurs in the "Heimskringla," and Dr. Jamieson regards "œpa harop" as the "war whoop of the northern nations." The same eminent authority says: "The notion that this cry was an invocation of Rollo, or 'Hrolf,' however whimsical, points to the true source. It indicates a sort of traditional conviction that the term was introduced into France by the Normans; for it is undoubtedly of Gothic extraction." A line in the Gothic Bible confirms this:—"Josua heyrde folksius harop and thys" (Exod. xxxii. 17.) He heard, that is, the clamour and shouting of the Israelites worshipping the golden calf. It is very probable that the Irish exclamation, "Arrah!" the Scotch "Haro!" and the English "Halloo!" are all variations of this same "haro" which so astonished the congregation in Jersey. The radical meaning of it is to "harry," or vex. It belongs to an immense group of words in all languages. The Greek "Ares" (Mars), "Erynnis" (Furies), and Orion are thus connected with our own "Old Harry;" and, according to some etymologists, with the "harry" and "hare"—animals which are harried. Those who regard hares as vermin may have the privilege of deriving them from the French "harier," to hate. Hurt, ire (Sax. "yrra"), harrow (Latin for the plough which vexes the earth; "avarum," Celtic "arat"), haricot, hard, "Herr" (German, originally one who vexed and conquered a country), hero, herald, war (French, "guerre," preserved in the old Scottish "gar")—these, and more than a thousand other words in the languages of Europe represent the vast banyan growth out of an old root about whose ethereal origin and primitive significance etymologists have long differed. There are the Hebrew "aur," and Greek "ayr" (pur), and Gothic, "hyr," all of which signify "heat," and no doubt all referable to the same root. These are metaphorically woven into endless variations. The particular word "haro," used by Mr. Clark, of Jersey, is now obsolete; but there can be no doubt that it is represented at present by "harry," not in the sense of vexing an antagonist, but of harrying up a neighbourhood by raising alarm and indignation. Authorities differ somewhat as to the legal force of crying "haro;" but, whatever it may have been originally, it is doubtful if it means anything more at present than a public protest or effort to arrest an action in a form implying subsequent legal proceedings.—*Daily News*.

WOOLWICH DOCKYARD.—Negotiations are pending between the Government and one of the largest shipbuilding firms on the Thames, with a view of letting to the latter a considerable portion of the Woolwich Dockyard for the purposes of building iron ships of a large class. Should the negotiations prove successful, much of the apprehended distress consequent upon the closing of the Government dockyard will be averted, and the migration of a large number of skilled artisans from the town prevented.

CURIOUS LAWSUIT.—The Civil Tribunal of the Seine has just given judgment in a suit brought by M. Letellier, of Brussels, against Madame Carvalho, the singer. The plaintiff, who is the manager of the principal theatre at Brussels, had engaged the defendant; but she suddenly declined, alleging that, as an epidemic disease was raging in the Belgian capital, her life would be endangered. The Court has now declared the plea to be insufficient, and decided that she must go there within a fortnight, under penalty of paying 600*fr.* a day; it reserves M. Letellier's right to recover further damages, and grants him 1000*fr.* for the injury which he has already sustained.

MR. HENRY CHADOCK, Master Shipwright of Portsmouth Dockyard, has retired from further active service on full-pay superannuation, and is succeeded by Mr. William Irsham Robinson, late valuer and inspector of the dockyard work, and attached to the staff of the Controller of the Navy, at Whitehall. Mr. Robinson enters upon his duties at Portsmouth under the designation of "Master Shipwright and Engineer," the two departments thus becoming amalgamated, with the engineer subordinate to the shipwright, and brought more immediately under the jurisdiction of the Controller and the Chief Constructor and Surveyor of the Navy than was previously the case.

L. COOK, Great Grimsby, fisherman.—H. C. COOPER, Fulham New Town, —J. CREANEY, Ipswich, commercial traveller.—J. DIXON, Barnsbury, clerk.—R. BOWICK, Basky, carpenter.—J. G. AGNES, Bethnal-green, painter.—W. J. BAKER, Brompton, agent.—G. A. HAWES, Yarnmouth, mill-preceptor.—W. HAYLEY, Adams-mews, Grosvenor-square, combed vic-tualier.—T. B. HOSKING, Wimbledon, oil and colour man.—J. HUGHES, Tottenham, saddler.—L. J. JACKSON, Lamb-wood-park, tannery.—T. MATTHIAS and J. B. KELLY, Archer-street, West-ham-grove, drapers.—J. F. MEARES, Peckham,—S. MURRAY, Kingsland-road, hairdresser.—G. R. PAICE, West Croydon, con-sulting engineer.—J. PEARCE, St. John's-street, London, W., bookbinder.—A. ROHMILLER, London-west, commis-sion agent.—T. D. SARGENT, Lougham-street, Portland-place,—H. D. ASH, Back Church-lane, shareholders.—C. SMITH, Brighton, hairdresser.—J. THOMAS, Bath, hairdresser.—D. T. WARD, Bermondsey.—A. B. WILSON, Walbrook, commission agent.—W. ANTHONY, Cardiff, coalender.—W. BATEMAN, Birmingham, ironmonger.—J. BECKETT, Manchester, hosier.—J. BROWN, Carlisle, corkcutter.—T. R. BUTLER, Liverpool, merchant.—S. CAPEENE, North Rd., labourer.—B. CHORLEY, Eccleston, brewer.—R. W. CLEARMAN, Bowley.—W. COATES, Birmingham, ironmonger.—J. COOPER, Birmingham, com-plect agent.—A. A. C. COOPER, Briveton, physician.—H. DADLEY, Bishop's Trenchard, butcher.—W. DOUGLAS, Shefford Market, tailor.—J. ELLIOTT, Cardiff, brewer.—S. ENFIELD, Birmingham, ironmonger.—J. FARRELL, Birmingham, hosier.—FELLOWS, Walsall, prower's apprentice.—W. FINLISON, Barrow-in-Furness, shoemaker.—H. GARDNER, Brighton, watchmaker.—E. F. GIBBS, Brighton, jeweller.—J. GOLDS, Brighton, gasfitter.—T. GREENACRE, Hemmely, car-penter.—W. HARDCASTLE, Rancorn, bookseller.—A. HARRIS, Malden, bricklayer.—J. G. HARRISON, West Hartle-pool, cooper.—J. HASTINGS, Birmingham, ironmonger.—and H. HOLLAND, Hastings, butchers.—T. HOWLES, Man-chester, cabinetmaker.—H. HUNTER, Walsall, draper.—S. JACOBBEN, Liverpool, merchant.—J. W. KING, Warwick, ironmonger.—J. KIRBY, Birmingham, ironmonger.—J. LITTLELOW, Birmingham.—J. MINTO, Scotswold, brewer.—G. and A. MOITZ-OCK, Clare, cabinetmakers.—E. MOUNSDON, Birmingham, ironmonger.—J. NORTON, Worcester, iron-monger.—M. PANE, Southwell, boot and shoe maker.—J. PARKER, Exeter, carpenter.—J. F. REENDERAST, Manchester, travellor.—W. PUDDICOMB, Fountain.—J. and J. PYNOL, Shilshire, ironmonger.—J. QUINN, Birmingham, ironmonger.—W. RICKETTS, Brighton, consignments.—H. SALT, Liver-pool.—B. V. SCOTT, Oxford, medical bankrupt.—B. SHAW, Huddersfield, woollen-spinner.—A. SENIOR, Huddersfield, hosiery.—J. SIMMONDS, Sheffield, ironmonger.—W. and W. SHORT, Birmingham, timber merchants.—J. SMITH, Liverpool, licensed victualier.—G. SMITH, Birly Shield, farmer.—STONE, Barnstable, innkeeper.—R. T. TOWNES, Crediton, T. T. TOWNES, Crediton.—T. T. TOWNES, Crediton, wheelwright.—S. UNDERHILL, Birmingham, builder.—B. M. WALTON, Minchinghampton, physician.—J. WOOD, Kingstons-on-Hull, ironmonger.—J. WOOD, Kingston-on-Hull, iron-monger.—J. BARSKATT, Swinehead, potato merchant.—BOY, Kendal, mechanic.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERS.—P. STEWART, Glasgow, provisor.—JAMES and JOHN ROBERTSON, Perth, cabinet-makers.—D. ANGUS, Edinburgh, merchant.—A. W. FRASER, Liverpool, photographer.—D. McDONALD, Glasgow, wine and spirit mer-chant.—J. WELLS, Broughy Ferry, painter.—D. MILLAR, Edinburgh, builder.—S. ANDERSON, Dundee, miller.—KEHL, Kilwinning, draper.

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THE SIAMESE TWINS and the **BEAUTIFUL CIRCASSIAN LADY** are daily attracting crowded audiences at the **EGYPTIAN HALL, Piccadilly**, notwithstanding their great success, they must shortly leave London for Paris. Public Receptions during the day as follow:—From Half-past Two until Half-past Four, and from Half-past Six until Nine. Admission One Shilling.

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CHANCERY," at Marlborough-street, on Tuesday. Charles Henry Hill, Queen's Head-street, Islington, was charged, on remand, with defrauding various persons, by fraudulently representing that he could put them in possession of unclaimed dividends and other property. Mr. Harper, for the prosecution, said since the last examination he had ascertained that a large number of persons had been defrauded by the prisoner. He should complete six or eight cases, and then ask for a committal. Mrs. Painter, of 131, Ossulton-street, Sevenoaks-town, said in

Saturday morning an attempt was made to "blow-up" a non-unionist saw-handle maker, named Joseph Martin, of 76, Broad-lane, Sheffield. The man had recently been in the employ of another firm, but, owing to orders being slack, he went on

THE TARIFF OF THE SWEDESH VESSELS, IN THE COUNTY OF SWEDEN.
THOMAS FOX, 2, Catherine-street, Strand, London. --
URDAY, MARCH 13, 1869.